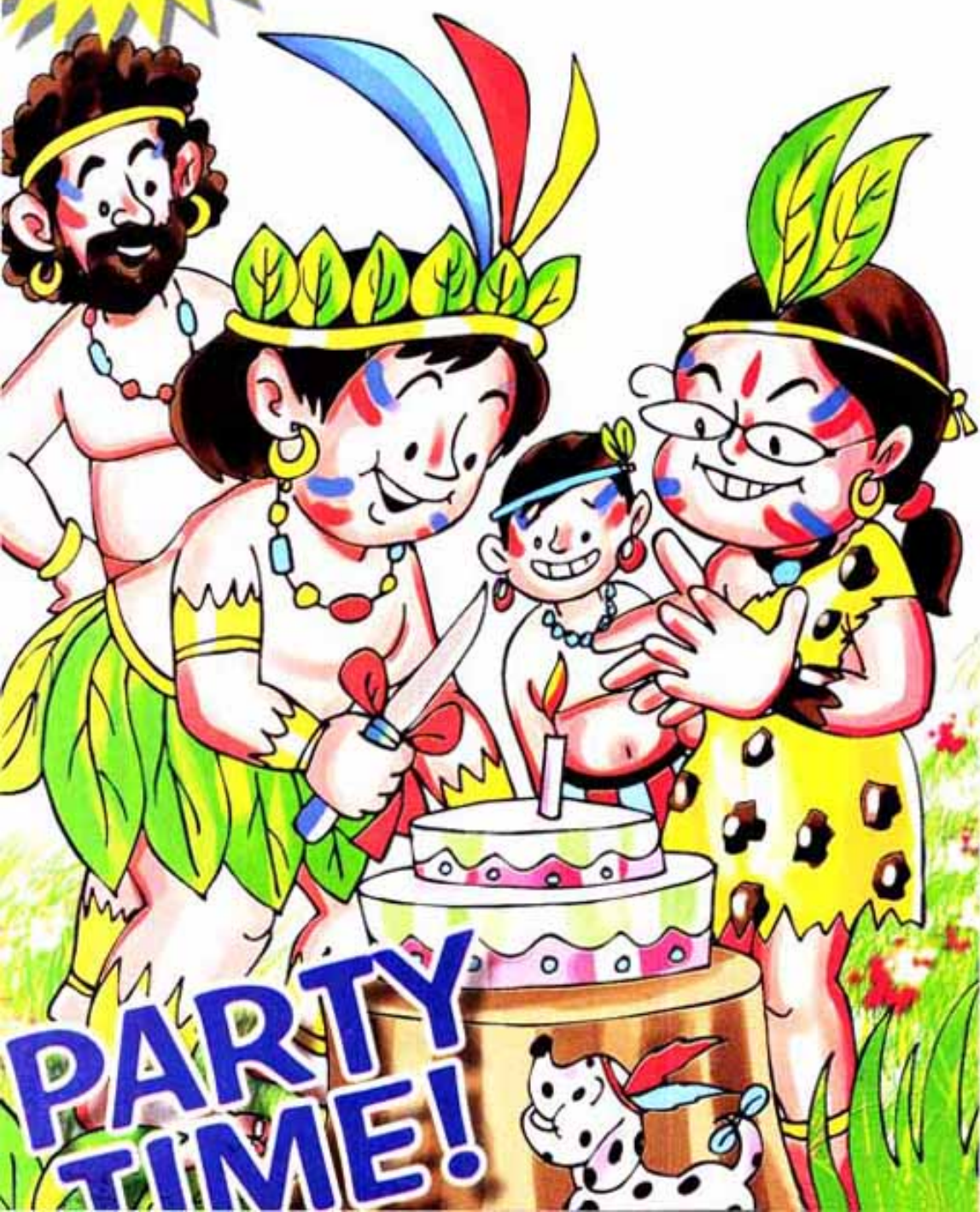


August 2008 Rs.10/- 80Pages

GOKULAM

Anniversary
Issue

THE Magazine for Children



**PARTY
TIME!**

Ram and Shyam

Burglar Alarm

RAM AND SHYAM HAVE COME TO THEIR RICH UNCLE SHANKAR'S HOUSE FOR THE WEEKEND.

WOW UNCLE, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL HOUSE!

IT'S ALMOST LIKE A PALACE

I'M GLAD YOU LIKE IT HERE, KIDS.

ENOUGH OF CHITCHAT, CHILDREN. NOW COME, EAT YOUR FILL.

LATER THAT NIGHT, RAM AND SHYAM ARE FAST ASLEEP IN THEIR BEDS. SUDDENLY RAM HEARS A NOISE.

WAKE UP SHYAM, I THINK THERE'S A BURGLAR IN THE HOUSE.

THESE PEOPLE HAVE LOTS OF VALUABLES IN THE HOUSE. WE'LL FIND GOLD AND CASH WORTH CRORES.

LET'S GET OUR TORCHES.

THEY GO TO OPPOSITE ENDS OF THE HALL AND HIDE THERE. NEXT, THEY HOLD THEIR RED POPPINS AND FLASH THE TORCH FROM BEHIND.

FOOL, THESE PEOPLE HAVE INSTALLED A BURGLAR ALARM! WE CAN'T ROB THIS HOUSE.

ALARM?! GGG... BUT.

AND THE POPPINS.

CAN'T YOU SEE THESE INFRARED RAYS? THERE'S NO TIME FOR BUTS. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.

NEXT MORNING, RAM AND SHYAM NARRATE THE STORY TO THEIR UNCLE AND AUNT.

BRAVO, MY CHILDREN! YOU SAVED THE DAY WITH YOUR CURIOSITY.

AND WITH POPPINS!



GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

August 2008

Vol.XXI, No.2



Of all created things the loveliest.
And most divine are children.

-William Canton

Editorial	- 2
My City	- 6
Squirrel for an Hour!	- 8
Aazhi	- 11
Sports	- 15
Jokes	- 17
Cottage No.13	- 18
My cat Kittu	- 24
Penpals	- 26
Birth of Puppets	- 28
Have Your Say	- 36
Factory Visit	- 38
Budding Bards	- 42
Cover Story	- 44
Laugh a Little	- 47
Facts for you!	- 48
A Mini Serial Story	- 50
Make it Yourself	- 54
School Event	- 56
Experience	- 58
Colour Burst	- 60
Viewpoint	- 65
Grandmaworm	- 70
Budding Chef	- 73
Letter Box	- 74
Picture Story	- 76
News Digest	- 79

BRAND NEW!



Antony and Grantina!

They Make News!



32

Zero In!

64



*Marvels of the
Medical World!*

4



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Dear Reader,

I was flabbergasted when I read the following news item and so will you be!

"Hundred million tonnes of plastic debris litters the oceans of the world! A particularly dense accumulation can be found 1000 miles off the California coast in an area known as the "Central North Pacific Gyre". What gets in here can be trapped for decades!

The build up of plastics in the gyre is estimated to span five million square miles!"

The world produces sixty billion tonnes of plastic every year! We are increasingly pol u-



Plastic Debris a Stark Danger!

ting our land, rivers and seas. 100,000 marine mammals are killed each year by plastics both directly and indirectly through toxic substances in plastics which leach into surrounding water. Plastic waste littering the land create even greater ecological problems and damage to health of humans and animals. We don't notice it since it is slow poisoning!

It is heartening to note that the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has succeeded in using husk and rice or wheat barn to produce biodegradable sheets which can be converted to bags of various sizes.

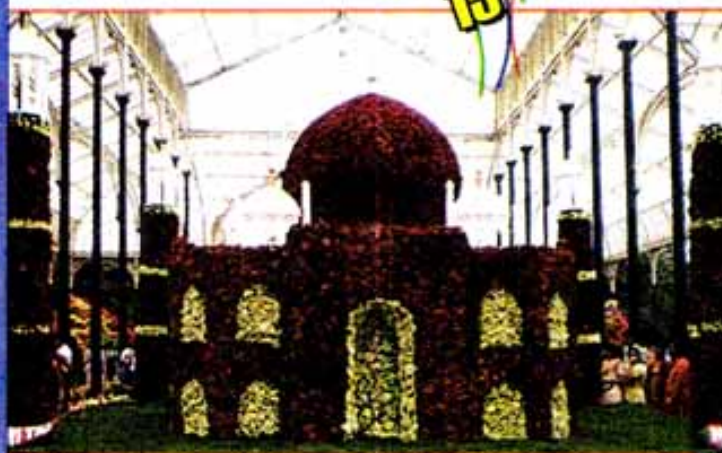
Let us not wait for governments to act. We will resolve to ban plastics from our lives starting today!

— Editor

It's August and Lalbagh, in Bengalooru is getting decked up to welcome visitors to the annual Independence day flower show. This horticultural show has been held twice every year since 1922. They used to be known as the summer and winter flower shows. After Independence, the shows are being organised around the Independence and



FLOWER POWER!



Republic days. From a flower show, it grew to a horticultural show, in keeping with Bengalooru's growth as a production centre for export quality flowers, fruits and vegetables.

This show attracts not only visitors but avid garden enthusiasts, the odd poet who finds inspiration in the flowers and not to forget the bees feasting on the new varieties of plants. Lalbagh is all flower power right now! It is said that 150 varieties have been added to the existing 1950 plants.

Among last year's attraction's were a Taj Mahal made of roses. More than 35,000 roses are said to have been used in this creation.

Bengalooru may have changed, but Lalbagh is THE place to calm tired nerves. As you enter you are welcomed by a

never ending ocean of dahlias and chrysanthemums. If you arranged all the plants in one row, the line would measure 10,000 metres! The description doesn't end here my friends; it could go on and on. I have sent a picture of the Tajmahal display at Lalbagh last year, for the benefit of the unfortunate people who could not make it to the flower show!

-V.R.Chittaranjan,
Std.VII, T.O.S.S.S.,
Bengalooru



Dr. Jayavelan **(Compiled by G.S.S.)**

We seldom give thought to the complex bundle of organisational strings that hold a hospital together. In this very special serial, Dr. Jayavelan, retired Chief Medical Officer, IIT Hospital, Chennai, explains the many wonderful skills and specialities which are involved in the running of a hospital. We begin at the operation theatre, also called the surgery room.

THEATRE OF A DIFFERENT KIND!

Great care is taken while constructing on operation theatre. The walls should be washable and must facilitate being sterilized. Nowadays, many hospitals use high quality stainless steel to line the walls of the operation theatre.

The flooring should be strong and smooth. Granite is often used. It should be of non-skid quality.

The lights above the operation table vary from three to seven in number. Sometimes there is just one, very powerful light. The focussing of these lights is adjusted carefully, in order to avoid shadows on the hands of the surgeons or on the patients' body. Care is also taken to keep the light rays as near-natural as possible. Only then can a surgeon and his team correctly assess the organs and body fluids of the patient, when need arises.

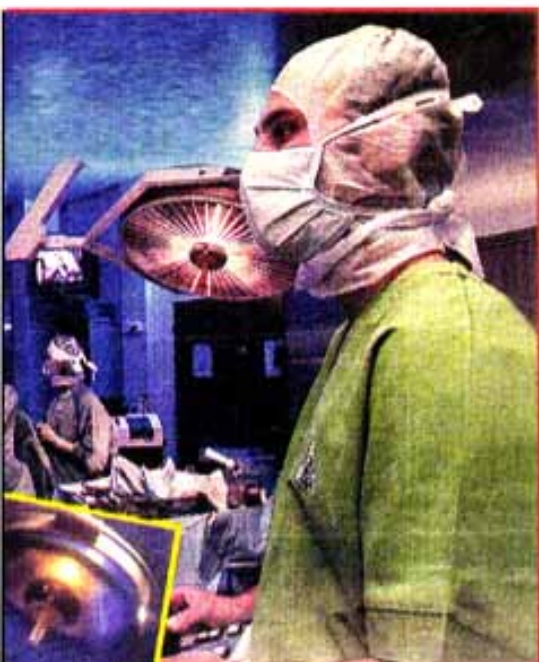
The lights are suspended on adjustable brackets with knobs that help to change or alter the focus during the surgery.

All surgical theatres are air conditioned. But not as our homes or offices are! In the domestic



air conditioning units, the air within a room is recycled - it goes out through the A.C. vents

and comes in again. But A.C.s in an operation theatre do not permit recycled air to enter. Fresh air enters continuously. The special HEPA filters in the A.C. units do a thorough job of filtering out bacteria and large virus. The air that enters an operation theatre is called pure air or medical air. The A.C. units are usually fixed overhead, on the ceiling.



The air pressure within the theatre is about half to one bar more than that outside. Even if the theatre door has to be opened for some reason during the middle of a surgery, the non-sterile air from outside does not enter. The pressure difference enables this safeguard.

The operation table is unique too! It's legs are in the centre, so that doc-

tors and nurses can comfortably stand, move and work around it. It is of three movable parts and a part of the patients' body can be raised or lowered as and when necessary.

You probably know that doctors and nurses who enter an operation theatre wear sterile gowns, caps, gloves and footwear. Strict standards have to be adhered to in maintaining the sterile atmosphere and purity of the theatre. The footwear are washed and sterilized too before and after every surgery. Even the knobs of the surgery lights which the doctors handle, are carefully sterilized!

Before anyone enters a theatre, he or she would have to put on sterile clothes in the allotted pre-sterile area.

Operation theatres are regularly fumigated - chemicals are pumped into its atmosphere to remove bacteria and virus. ●

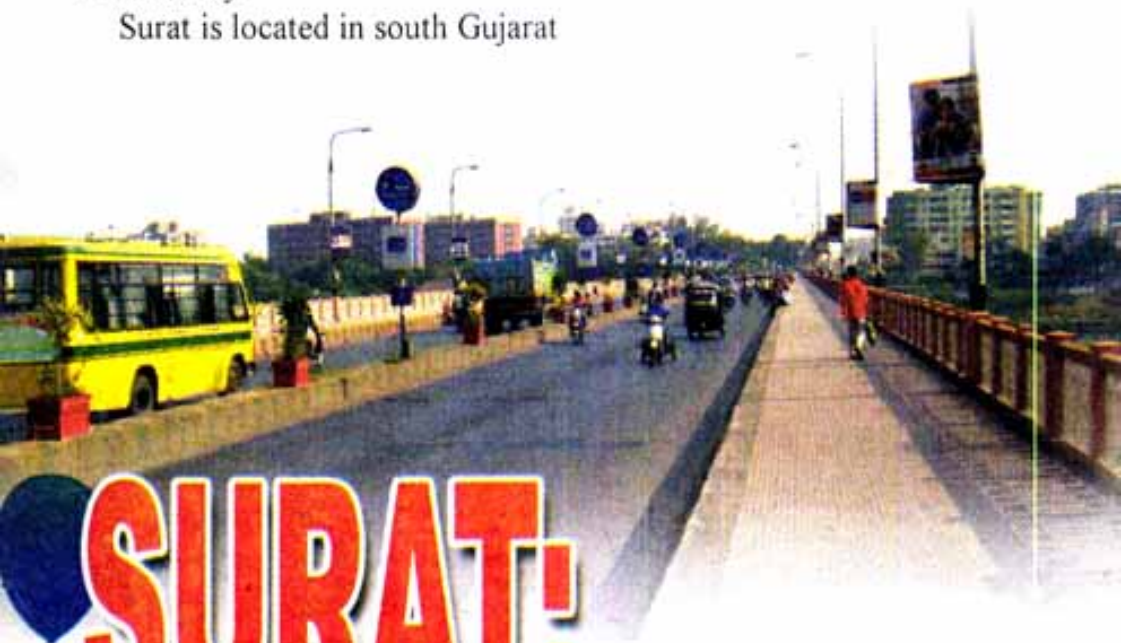


Surat, in Gujarat is a city famous for its diamond merchants. It is one of the largest exporters of diamonds in India. It is an industrialised city with a large area dedicated to industries and factories. It is also famous for its metal products and textile industry.

Surat is located in south Gujarat

though it is so close to the river! One can get a clear view of the Tapti river from the temple.

The British started their first company in Surat, and the building they erected has now been converted into



SURAT:

THE LAND

on the banks
of River

Tapti, a major river of south Gujarat. The Tapti caters to the water requirements of Surat, and therefore, it is regarded as holy. A temple of Goddess Ambaji is built along the banks of Tapti. When the river overflowed in 2006, not a drop of water entered this temple even

the main office of Surat Mahanagarpalika (city administration).

Surat was a dirty city till about a decade ago. In 1994, the Tapti overflowed due to heavy rains. Pneumonic plague attacked the city. Soon Surat became a shunned city. The local business suffered a loss of several million rupees a day. Gradually, the



plague scare subsided. But again it became a dirty city. In May 1995, S.R. Rao took over as the new Municipal commissioner of Surat. It was after this that Surat turned over a new leaf. In two years, he did all he could to make Surat a better city to live in. He built public toilets and established health centres. Every night, workers cleaned the streets. Disease rate went down sharply. When S.R. Rao left two years later in 1997, Surat was ranked as the second cleanest city in India, after Chandigarh. It continues to be a clean city and recently, has been ranked as the cleanest city in India.

Navaratri, Gujarati New Year, Makar Sankranti and Holi are the



OF FORTUNE!

most popular festivals. During Navaratri, people wear traditional costumes and dance the garba. Makar Sankranti is celebrated in January, the same day as the Tamilian festival of Pongal. On this day, the sky is filled with colourful kites. The Gujarati new year comes immediately after Diwali and is celebrated more widely than Diwali. Holi lasts for two days.

can be eaten only in Surat!

I would like to conclude by saying that Surat is the industrial heart of south Gujarat. It is a clean and traditional city. It is truly a joy to live in Surat.

- S.Jaychandran,
Std.VI, Ryan
International School,
Surat



Ghari a sweet with a ghee coating on its top and Undhiyo a spicy curry with vegetables,



In a cottage near the Ganga river, lived a boy named Dev. Every-day he used to go to the lush, green forest to play. He usually took his snacks and ate them there. He would feed the remaining crumbs of his biscuits to the squirrels sitting on the branches of the trees. Out of them, the boy liked one of the squirrels whom he had named Munnu.

One fine day, Dev set off as usual to picnic in the forest. After he finished his snacks he threw some crumbs for the squirrels and called Munnu, hoping that Munnu would understand and come out of his house.

Munnu did come! Dev exclaimed "Munnu, you look so cute today." The squirrel in reply said "Squeak, Squeak, Squeak." But Dev heard it as "Thanks for the compliment."

He thought... 'Thanks for the compliment? Is Munnu really talking to me?'

Suddenly he realized that he could understand the squirrel's language. Then the squirrel asked him "Do you want to come to my house?" "Me?" replied Dev. "But how can I? I'm so big. How will I fit into your tiny hole in the bark of the tree?" "That is no problem. Old thatha (grandfather) Anil Virumbhi (squirrel lover in Tamil) can help you. He knows magic."

Munnu took Dev to a queer little cottage near a stream in the forest. "Anil thatha!" he called out. Dev loved the look of Anil thatha. He had a calm and friendly smile. He was just like his own grandfather. Then Munnu said, "Thatha, Dev wants to see my home. Didn't I tell you about

A SQUIRREL FOR





the sweet boy who feeds us every-day? Please make him a squirrel like me." So Anil thatha said, "I will do anything for anyone who is so kind and loves squirrels just like me." So he touched Dev's head and chanted some words. Dev could feel himself shrinking and turning into a cute and

ral world!" he said.

After some time Dev reached Munnu's house in the bark of the tree. It's door which had been carved out by Munnu's great great... grandfather, was decorated with peanut shells all over the top.

"So a lot of your ancestors have lived in this house right?" asked Dev.

"Yes, it is the oldest home in the squirrel tribe."

"Where are your parents?"

Dev asked curiously.

"Oh! They've gone on a holiday. I am here with my sister Chunni" and he pointed to a cuddled squirrel sleeping on a pile of hay.

"Do you know our lifespan? Our maximum lifespan is 16 years. And we mostly eat nuts and fruits" said Munnu and took Dev to a room piled up with nuts. Since Dev was now a tiny squirrel,



AN HOUR

cuddly squirrel.

Anil thatha stroked squirrel Dev's fur and told him that he would again become human in an hour's time. He also advised Dev to be good and follow Munnu's instructions.

Then Dev bid farewell and scampered up the tree with Munnu. "Wow! What lush, green leaves and that too at a closer view. It is good to be a squirrel. You can see the natu-

the pile looked like a mountain to him! Munnu gave Dev some nuts to eat.

"Delicious. The best nuts I've ever eaten. Munnu can we eat mangoes?" said Dev.

Munnu and Dev ran out of the hole and climbed the highest branch and reached for a mango. Munnu taught Dev how to eat it, and guess how much fun he had! He swung on the mango as it swayed with his weight and movement, and munched on it happily.

After their stomachs were full, they plucked a mango for Chunni

Lord Rama stroked my ancestor's fur and his fingers left a white mark on his skin. From that day, squirrels are born with stripes on their body."

The three decided to play hide-n-seek. Actually, it was Dev's suggestion. Munnu did not know what it was, but when Dev told him the game he said, "Sounds Exciting!" So Munnu was the catcher. He had to find Chunni and Dev. Dev did not know the trees, so Chunni and Dev hid together in Mr.Owl's home, after seeking his permission.

When Munnu came up to ask Mr.Owl whether they were hiding in his home, the old bird shook his head vigorously! After Munnu left, he winked at the two in hiding and joined the fun.

Munnu went to his own house to look for them. Chunni and Dev scampered up and touched the seeker's post! The game ended.

It was also time for Dev to regain his original form. He kissed Mr.Owl, hugged Chunni and Munnu and jumped down from the tree. As he landed on the ground he had changed into his original form. He bid farewell to his squirrel friends and he thanked Anil thatha for making his day such a special one! They all watched Dev's receding figure, as he walked away home.

Story and illustration by:

Harshini Srikanth,

**Std.VII, National Public School,
Bengalooru**



and carried it home. After they reached the home, Munnu woke Chunni and introduced Dev to her. She was so happy that she had a new friend. Then Munnu said "Dev, my grandfather told me that we got stripes on our back, because our ancestor helped Lord Rama build the Rama Sethu bridge to Sri Lanka.

AMAZING TREES!

Pictures, Text :
AAZHI

The biggest trees of the world could either be magnificently tall or stupendously huge. The red sequoia trees of California grow up to 120 metres in height. Their trunks are up to 16 metres in circumference. They weigh a whopping 2000 tonnes! But the seed of this tree measures just four millimetres! A hundred seeds would weigh just half a gram!



The thickest of trees is a giant sequoia. Its circumference is 32 metres and it is 83 metres tall! It is found in the National Parks of U.S.A. It was struck and damaged once by a bolt of lightning and thunder. Its bottom has been carved into a tunnel through which large vehicles can pass.



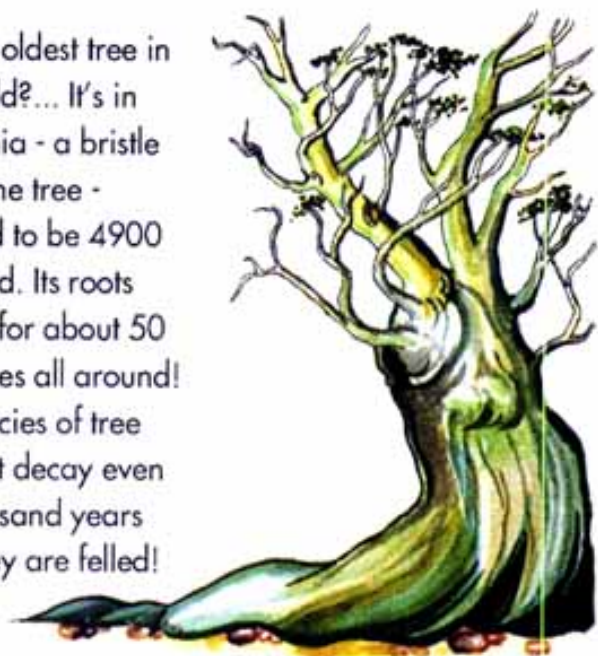
A 140 metre tall eucalyptus, discovered in 1885, at Victoria, Australia, is believed to be the tallest tree in the world. Eucalyptus trees grow very rapidly - upto ten metres a year.





The dwarf willow tree, found in the tundra regions of the Arctic, is the shortest. These trees do not grow over 10 centimetres. The bitter cold and frost inhibit tree growth in this region.

The oldest tree in the world?... It's in California - a bristle cone pine tree - believed to be 4900 years old. Its roots burrow for about 50 kilometres all around! This species of tree does not decay even ten thousand years after they are felled!



A chopped tree's trunk has a series of concentric circles within. Research scholars calculate the age of the tree with the help of these circles.



'Three bottles' is a variety found in Madagascar. This tree has a triple - bottle - shaped trunk which tapers into twig-like projections. It has no leaves and the twigg branches serve as leaves!



In the Mexican Desert one can come across elephant trees - They resemble elephants lying on their backs and do not have leaves. A spell of rain, and this barren tree springs to life with budding leaves. Within a span of 21 days, the flowers bloom and turn into fruit and the seeds disperse too!

The beech tree usually grows tall and straight, upto a height of 45 metres. But, the beech trees in the gloomy forests near Reims (in France), have spread their branches on the forest floor, to create a tangled mass of wood and leaves! Researchers say that monks who dwelt here a thousand years ago, caused these trees to grow in this complex fashion.



Dig up the roots of an old oak tree and arrange the pieces to form a straight line. It would extend to 40,000 kilometres! - Enough 'rope' to tie around the world! Among all trees, the oak has the most roots.

Did you know that the sandal tree - India's pride - is a root parasite? It's roots spread themselves till they reach a neighbouring tree's roots and start sucking up nutrients from them! A sandal tree grove can never therefore be grown!

Bonsai is the japanese method of growing dwarfed trees. Trees like the pipal, banyan or bamboo are first grown in pots. Their roots (except the tap root) are cut once a year and they are replanted in the pot. Since they don't have enough roots to absorb the nutrients in the soil, they remain stunted.





A short and stout trunk, branches that spread out like roots and a leafless body characterise the mini - baobab tree. It is found in the Namib desert region and affectionately called the inverted tree!

The octopus tree of Madagascar has tentacle-like branches and a short one-metre trunk. The branches that twirl up into the air resemble the octopus and each branch is invested with tiny, thorny leaves.



The barrel tree's bottom looks pretty much like a cask. When it rains, this tree draws in as much water as its huge trunk can hold and stores it for use during summer. This 'watery' tree is termite and fire resistant.

The mangrove swamps in tropical regions abound with the mangrove trees. The swamps border sea shores and the tree's roots grow up above the water and absorb oxygen from the atmosphere. The seeds germinate even while on the tree, within the fruit and start growing as soon as they fall into the swamps.



S.N. Kannan

The Beijing Olympics promises to be unique in several ways. With 28 games, 302 sections and 10,000 competitors, history will be created in the Chinese capital; sensational history, between 8 and 24 August.

No less than 10,500 sportsmen have thronged to Beijing with the hope of winning laurels for their country. With tickets being moderately priced, 75 percent have already (mid-July) been sold out.

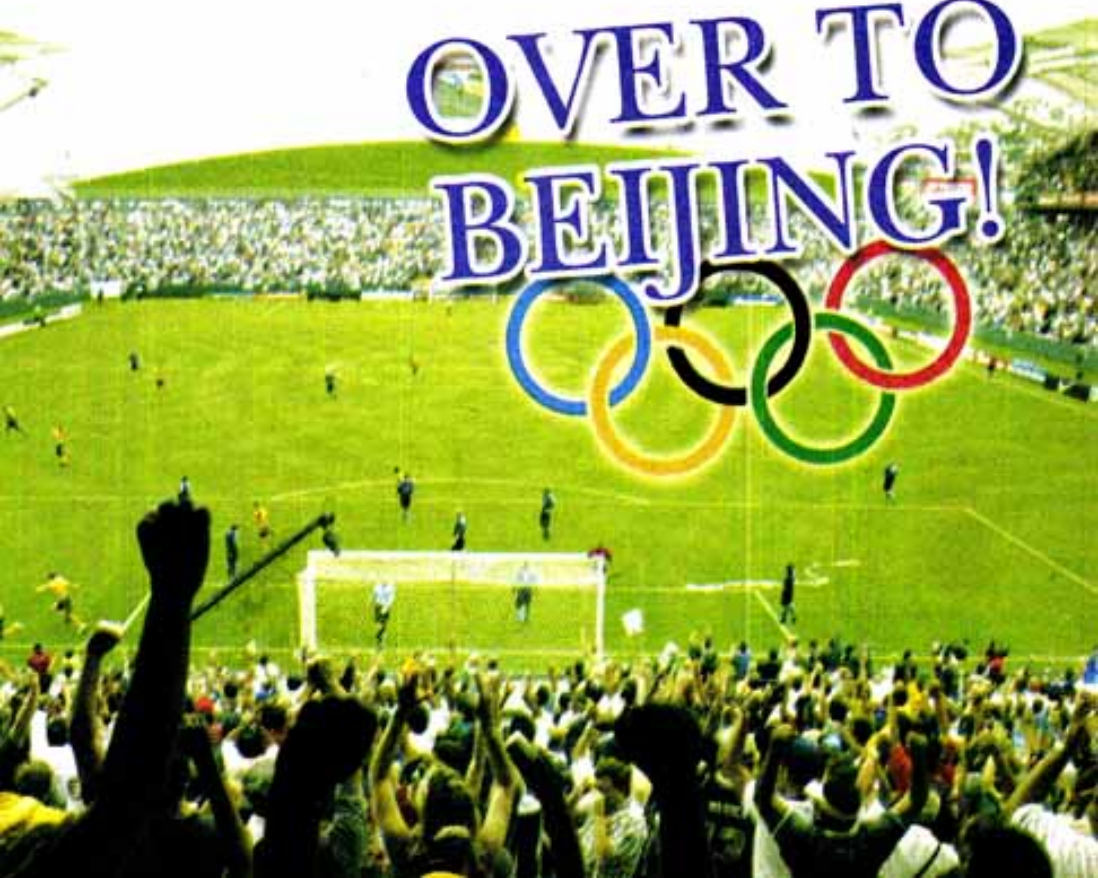
Popular Canadian singer Selena

Dylan, who sang the Titanic theme song, is to perform on the opening day.

The theme song for the event, 'We are Ready' has been picturised and filmed by Jackie Chan!



**OVER TO
BEIJING!**

The Olympic rings logo, consisting of five interlocking rings in blue, yellow, black, green, and red, is positioned below the text "OVER TO BEIJING!".

China competed with many nations to host this event. The final 'battle' was between Toronto (Canada) and Beijing in which Beijing won hands down!

Initially the Olympic stadium was constructed at Huang Sho. But there was something missing in the structure. It was abandoned and a new construction began all over again in 2003. An architecture firm from Switzerland was commissioned to work on it. It was designed to look like a nest from aerial view, and completed within targetted time.

Having completed the arrangements, China has turned its attention to the play fields. Here is an opportunity for them to beat America in the medals tally! Last time China lost the first place to America by a whisker and is determined that this should not happen again.

India has been participating in the Olympics

since 1928 but has managed to win medals only in four individual sports. In the 2004 Olympics, 78 sportsmen from India participated in 14 different events. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore was the only medalist among them. He won the silver for rifle shooting.



**India's
only hope...**

This time, India faces some embarrassment even before the games have begun. Sandeep Kumar, a wrestler from our country, has crossed over to play for the Australian team!

Sandeep felt that his talent was not recognised in India. He works as a police constable and claims that he has been denied the attention and training he deserves! Kudip Bhasi, an Indian wrestler of the Melbourne wrestling club, spotted Sandeep's talent and called him over to Australia. Sandeep Kumar is now an Australian Citizen!

India pins its hopes on its only star Anju Bobby George, for a medal. The Leander - Bhupathi duo are to play at Beijing. This has been confirmed after much debate and confusion. The tennis doubles partners who fell out, are coming together again. After all, the Olympics slogan this time is, **One world; One Dream!**



W's Problem!

20th Anniversary

Jokes



Ron: Which state is very brainy?

Peter: The state of mind!

Guest: Why does your dog sit there and watch me eat?

Host: I can't imagine, unless it's because you have the plate he usually eats from.



Teacher: If the world's wonderful washing machine washes ten clothes, how many w's are there in it?

Student: There are no w's in 'it'.



— J. Vishnu, Std.X,
Shiksha Kendra
M.H.S.S,
Vellore

“Oh, I’m so sorry!” Emilda began apologizing. “Let me wipe the coat for you” and she grabbed a paper napkin from the holder.

“Oh, never mind, it’s okay.” The lad seemed to not bother much as he turned to his counterpart across the table and added, “Give me the keys, I’ll go to the cottage and change in five minutes.”

Emilda immediately took his seat in front of the gruffy chap, trying to engage him in a talk.

She did this on purpose so that his attention would be diverted from spotting Anik and Suresh who had slipped out of their chairs to cautiously follow the guy with the grey coat. They kept a certain

Their limbs were in an absolute tremble as they reached the lobby and hushed Rajeev to a corner to explain the matter.

“Where is Partha Sir?” they asked in a flurry. “We need to act quick before the guys walk away. They have already checked out.”

“I’ll go and fetch Sir, meantime you both stay at the reception and try to hold those guys somehow.” Rajeev flurried. “Be composed so that nobody suspects. We don’t know who else is hand in glove in the operation.”

Anik and Suresh quavered as they stood guard near the exit, hoping the culprits took as long as possible to re-appear. Interim, inside



Cottage Number 13

distance to avoid suspicion and as they neared Cottage no. 17 where the guy stopped for a while to take off his coat, the boys suddenly halted in shock. The red and black checked shirt he was wearing indeed had a tear near the pockets.

the restaurant Emilda was avidly trying to keep the guy in front of her engaged and soon Sonali and Raksha also joined to give her a helping hand.

Meantime the boys standing at the exit door could spot the checked-shirt man at a distance. He was now

wearing a polo neck tee in the place of the checked shirt.

"Oh my God, he's already here." Suresh whispered under his breath. "What do we do now?"

"We'll try to pretend as though we are waiting for a vehicle or



something” Anik pointed. “And don’t look in his direction at all.”

“Just pray that Partha Sir should come quickly,” he added closing his eyes for a moment and no sooner he said this, than he spotted the co-ordinator scampering down the corridor to his left, followed on the heels by Rajeev.

By then the guy had entered the restaurant to join his friend and the gang of girls around him.

“Now listen,” Mr.Partha whispered hurriedly. “Those fellows might be carrying weapons and might turn out to be dangerous. So the best we can do is to stall them till the police arrive.”

“But wasn’t Sukwinder uncle particular that the police not be informed?” the boys seemed perturbed. “Jassy might be at risk.”

“I spoke to Mr. Singh just now and he asked me to go ahead,” the co-ordinator confirmed.

“Unfortunately he has already sent the ransom amount to the specified place and he said he’ll be taking the very next flight to Chennai.”

The two men had by now moved away from the table and begun to walk out of the restaurant and proceed towards the reception counter to complete the check out formalities. The girls still

For Tiny Tots!

- I am a black island surrounded by white water. Who am I?
- I ask no questions but require many answers. Who am I?
- I can speak any language. Who am I?

followed them, asking for their contact numbers and e-mail ids. There was still no sign of the police. Mr.Parthasarthy decided to take matters into his own hands. He quickly had the exit doors on both ends closed and casually announced that there was going to be a general check-up of the place and nobody was allowed to go out for the next one hour.

There was a sudden change of colour on the two fellows’ faces.

“We need to go urgently,” one of them announced. “We have a flight to catch.”

“It won’t take long.” Mr. Partha tried to sound cool though at the bottom of his heart there was a tremor. “The supervisors should be here at any moment.”

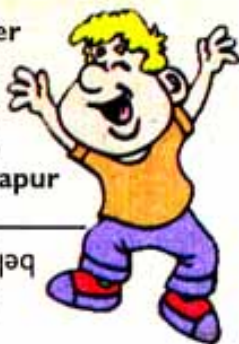
“What nonsense is this all about?” the other fellow seemed to lose his patience. “We have already checked out and who the hell are you to stop us now?”

The co-ordinator played his last card; “There’s a threat of a bomb being installed somewhere around and we have been instructed to stay put till the detection squad arrives.”

“Oooooo.....” A buzz



– Gloria Peter
Lazar, Std VIII,
Grace Academy
School, Akulj,
Solapur



Ans: Eye, Door
bell, An echo

transported across the room as all the guests' eyes widened with dread. The two men seemed to be taken in by the sham and as they slumped themselves grumpily on to the nearby sofa, Parthasarthy and the children heaved a sigh of relief.

It took the police nearly an hour to make their untimely appearance and by then it was too late for the culprits to realize that they had been fooled. There was no chance they could escape though one of them did have a gun in his pockets. The men in uniform captured them neatly and upon overturning their ruck-sack they not only found the checked shirt which had served as an excellent clue, they also fished out two weird looking, demon faced masks.

"There now, tell us where have you hidden the girl!" the inspector roared like a lion as he handcuffed the kidnappers. "And after that it will be your turn to go into exile." With that he dragged the startled fellows on to his jeep.

The previous evening as Jassy received the anonymous call, the two

perpetrators had hitched up one last plan to kidnap her. As Jassy waited endlessly for her Dad to call up again, the first guy appeared on the scene and introduced himself as Cool Dude. It took sometime for the girl to place him and when she finally recognized her unseen internet friend with whom she used to chat for long hours on end, her joy knew no bounds. Unsuspectingly Jassy tiptoed after Cool Dude who gently lead her outside and so engrossed in conversation was she that she didn't notice one more shadow following her from behind. When she did realize, it was too late.

There was nobody around except the stalker and her online friend. The ultimate shock was when she saw Cool Dude in his true colours as he clasped her mouth tight with a sedated handkerchief and dragged her to a standing vehicle from where she was kidnapped. They took her to a nearby house and kept her locked before calling up her dad in Delhi to demand the hefty ransom.

"If not for that final clue, those rogues would have walked out right before our eyes and we wouldn't even know that they were the masked stalkers"- Suresh pointed with a sigh of relief. "Thanks to Rajeev for ripping the pocket off his



checked shirt the night of the attack."

"Well, thanks to you and Anik for retaining the material and setting it aside safely." Rajeev complimented in return. "Who would have thought that this one little clue would turn the tables in our favour!"

"Hey and don't forget to thank the girls eh!" Varun butted in jocularly. "For going Ga-Ga and Oo...Laaa...over Cool Dude and his buddy..." and before the girls could attack him Mr. Sukwinder Singh appeared on the scene along with his daughter.

The children instantly flocked around Jassy and wanted to know step by step all that had happened right from the horse's mouth.

"All said and done, it was so exciting" the girl said finally, her carefree, bubbly self spurting back. "I can never forget this one week of my life and ofcourse I've learnt a good lesson not to trust internet strangers."

Her father intervened and addressed all the children, "Never ever get too friendly with unknown people and reveal your personal details. You know that Jassy had mentioned

about this cultural fest she'd be attending in Chennai to those rogues and see how they planned their moves accordingly."

"Oh gosh! That was really swift and smart on their part!" Rajeev observed. "That guy should have named himself Cunning Dude instead of Cool Dude!" Turning to Jassy he asked, "How long since have you been chatting with this guy?"

"For nearly six months," the girl replied.

"But then I swear I never gave him the financial details about my Dad's business. Didn't even mention he was a businessman."

"Ah! That's their job to find out" Mr. Parthasarthy said.

"No more chatting for me," Suresh said in a scared tone.

"Oh come on yaar..." Varun was his usual self. "Not everybody is shady."

"You know, what," Raksha began with a twinkle in her eyes for the umpteenth time. "I still believe all this has got to do with the number

"I've learnt a good lesson not to trust internet strangers"



"Move about and develop the habit of listening to people around you. The more you listen, the more ideas you



again was 13 0'
clockkkkk.....and..."

"Oh..... Rakshaaaaaa
aaa..." the children hooted
in one voice to halt her on
the spot!

The End

13. You see, first it was Cottage no 13, then it was Jassy getting kidnapped on the 13th and then it was the time she was retrieved which

will get. And with a hundred million people in this country, yes, you can be assured of a hundred million stories!!" says Geeta Canpadee, author of Cottage No.13. She wrote her first novel while in high school. Though a student of science, Geeta Canpadee is passionate about literature and language. She can be contacted at:

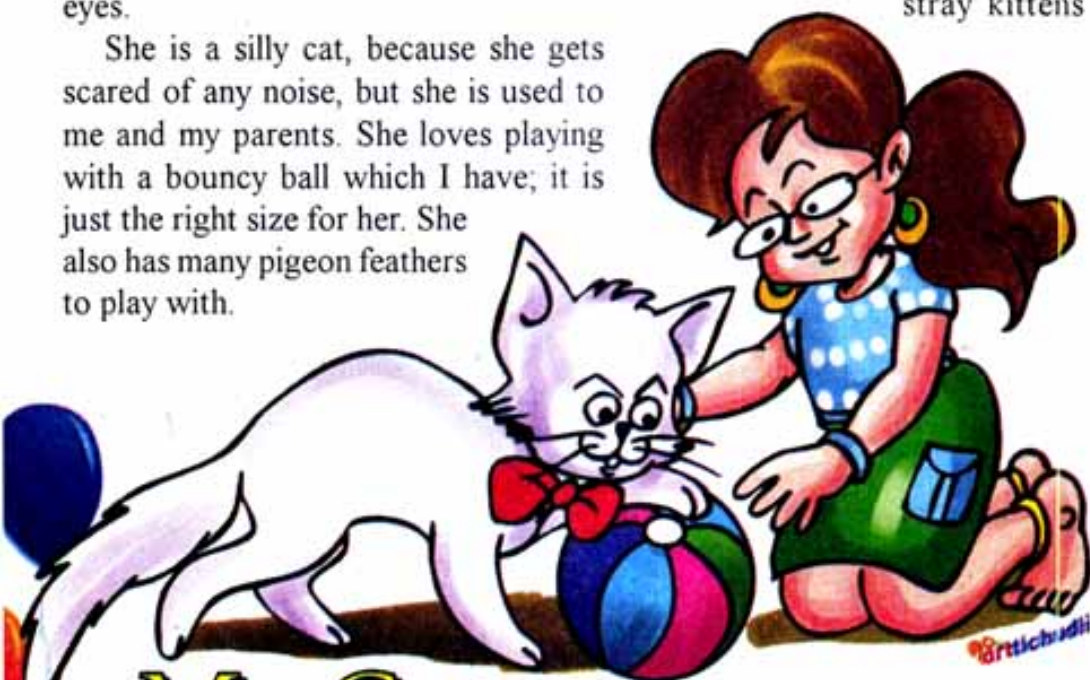
gcanpadee@gmail.com.
<http://spinastory.blogspot.com/>

My cat's name is Kittu. She is a female cat. I adopted her from a police station in Mumbai, when she was about two months old. She was living there with her mother and two siblings. Her fur is grey and white in colour. She is extremely cute with big eyes.

She is a silly cat, because she gets scared of any noise, but she is used to me and my parents. She loves playing with a bouncy ball which I have; it is just the right size for her. She also has many pigeon feathers to play with.

from the person's hands. She allows only me to pick her up. She hardly sits on people's laps. She really misses me when I go out; she waits for me to come back.

I think that when people want to keep pets, they should adopt stray kittens



My Cat KITTU

She is quite pampered because she eats sitting on my mother's lap. She eats dry cat food and drinks water.

She understands everything I say because she meows in response. She hates being picked up or held by anyone. She wriggles and jumps down

or puppies from the streets, instead of spending thousands of rupees on all posh breeds of cats and dogs. Stray animals, both cats and dogs, are friendlier and healthier than the ones which you buy. So, PLEASE adopt a stray as a pet, and it will make you as happy as I am with my Kittu.

— Teesta Rawal, Std. IV,
Billabong High International
School, Santacruz, Mumbai



K.Charlin celebrates his birthday on 21st August.

We wish him success in all his endeavours.

– Appa, Amma, and Sister
K.Karen

Our beloved **Rakshantha** will be celebrating her 10th birthday on 17th August 2008.

Happy Birthday Dear.

– Appa, Amma, Unni and
Grandma

Birthday Bash

My love, my sweet brother **N.Ravi Prakash** enters 12 on August 4, 2008.

Let his birthday welcome him by making his dreams come true. I wish you a life full of surprises and success. May you come out with the royal colours of butterflies!

Many more happy returns, DEAR!!

– Mom, Dad and Akila

B.Mano celebrates his 3rd birthday on 6th August at Neyveli.

"Wish you a very happy birthday and a prosperous future"

– Children of CISF
Kindergarten School and NPTI
(SR) Complex.



Name: Yuga Naik

Age : 11

Address: B/G Dramila Apartment, Mangor-Hill, Vasco-da-Gama, Goa - 403802

Hobbies: Reading, collecting stamps and coins, drawing, playing chess, badminton and swimming and helping my mother in cooking.

Name: C.S.M.Vevetha

Age : 13

Address: 9A/2 Parry Colony, 3rd Street, Pinji, Ranipet - 632 401

Hobbies: Making friends, listening to music, playing volley ball, reading novels, watching T.V.

Name: Shalini

Srinivasan

Age : 11

Address: Hs 03, HMT Main Road, IISC qutrs Yeshwantpur, Subedarpalya 2nd cross, Bengalooru - 12

Hobbies: Cycling, reading books of science and social history, playing games in any PC, doing craft work, writing, collecting books, comics, magazines.

Name: Sangeetha .N.G

Age : 14

Address: D/o. P.K. Nandagopal, N.R.Blooms, Gudatti Village, Neralur

Post, Anekal Taluk, Bengalooru - 562 107

Hobbies: Painting, reading books or newspaper, playing volleyball and shuttle cock, cycling, participating in competitions and enriching my general knowledge.

Name: Milind P.Jakati

Age : 13

Address: C-03, block C, Susheela Sankul building, Orulem, Mangor, Vasco, Goa

Hobbies: Reading, cycling, playing chess, table tennis, listening to western music and collecting

FRIENDS

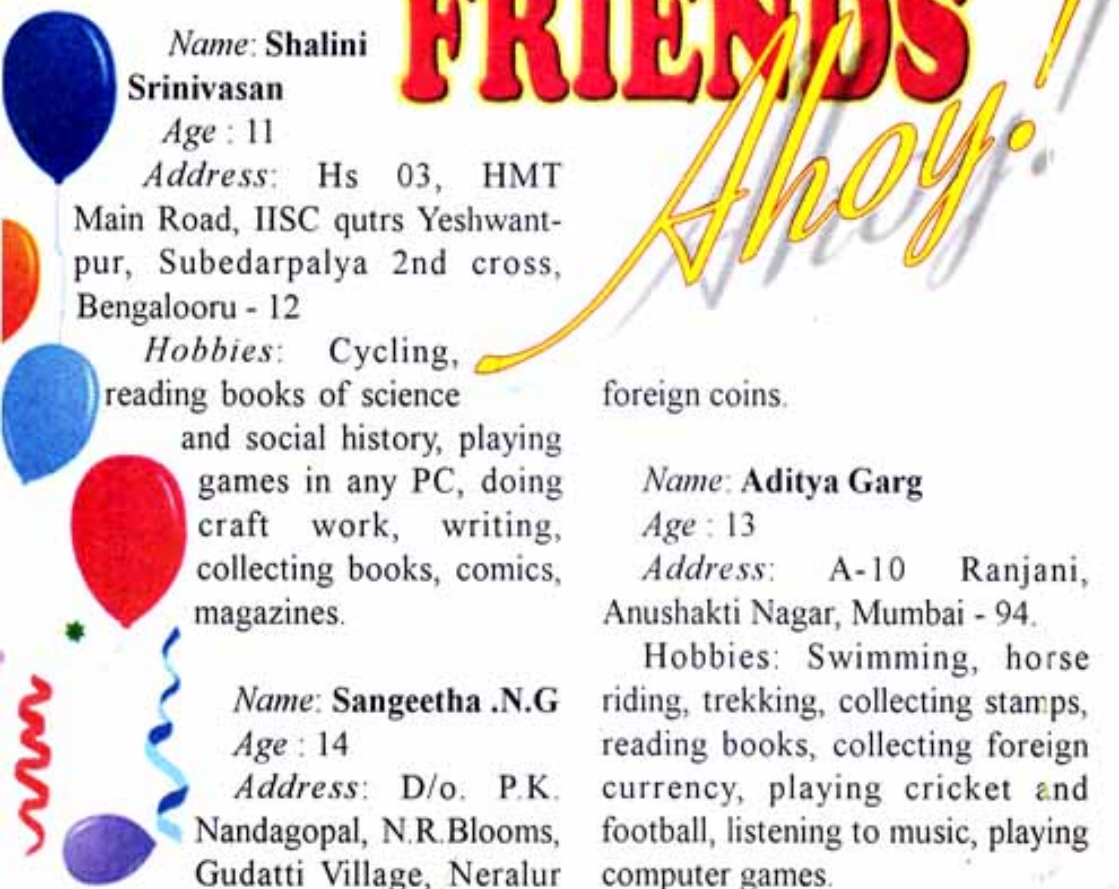
foreign coins.

Name: Aditya Garg

Age : 13

Address: A-10 Ranjani, Anushakti Nagar, Mumbai - 94.

Hobbies: Swimming, horse riding, trekking, collecting stamps, reading books, collecting foreign currency, playing cricket and football, listening to music, playing computer games.



Name: **Shriaparnaa**

Age : 15

Address: N1/151, First floor, IRC Village, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar - 751015.

Hobbies: Reading novels, writing poems, collecting coins, singing, listening to music, surfing the net, chatting and playing.

Name: **Lily**

Age : 15

Address: N1/151, IRC Village, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar - 751015.

Hobbies: Reading books, collecting stamps, writing poetry and stories, painting, singing, dancing, listening to songs, chatting and surfing.

Name: **Kafeela Parwin**

Age: 14

Address: Valigakath (G) P.O. Panangad, Thrissur, Kerala - 680665

Hobbies: Reading,



watching T.V., sitting alone, watching rain and sky, writing every little thought on paper.

Name: **Anjali Krishnan,**

Age : 15

Address : B-404 Nabard Staff Quaters, Poojapura Pai Road, Thiruvananthapuram

Hobbies: Reading, swimming, listening to music, collecting Harry Potter and Narnia pics, travelling, surfing the net, playing tennis and badminton.



K. Vijaya

Puppetry is said to have originated in India -

The story goes that one day, in ancient India, a carpenter made two wooden dolls. The Goddess Parvathi saw them and was so fascinated that she entered into one of them and convinced her husband, Lord Shiva, to enter the other doll. Then the two performed a beautiful dance. When the dance was over, the wooden dolls fell to the ground. This caused great disappointment

to the carpenter who had watched his lifeless dolls come alive. After much pleading, the God and Goddess agreed to help the carpenter if he found a way of animating the dolls. So the carpenter hit upon the

Birth of PUPPETS



idea of tying strings to the various limbs of the dolls, which when pulled, would animate them. Thus was puppetry born, and the puppeteer came to be known as the Sutradhar - the one who manipulates

the strings.

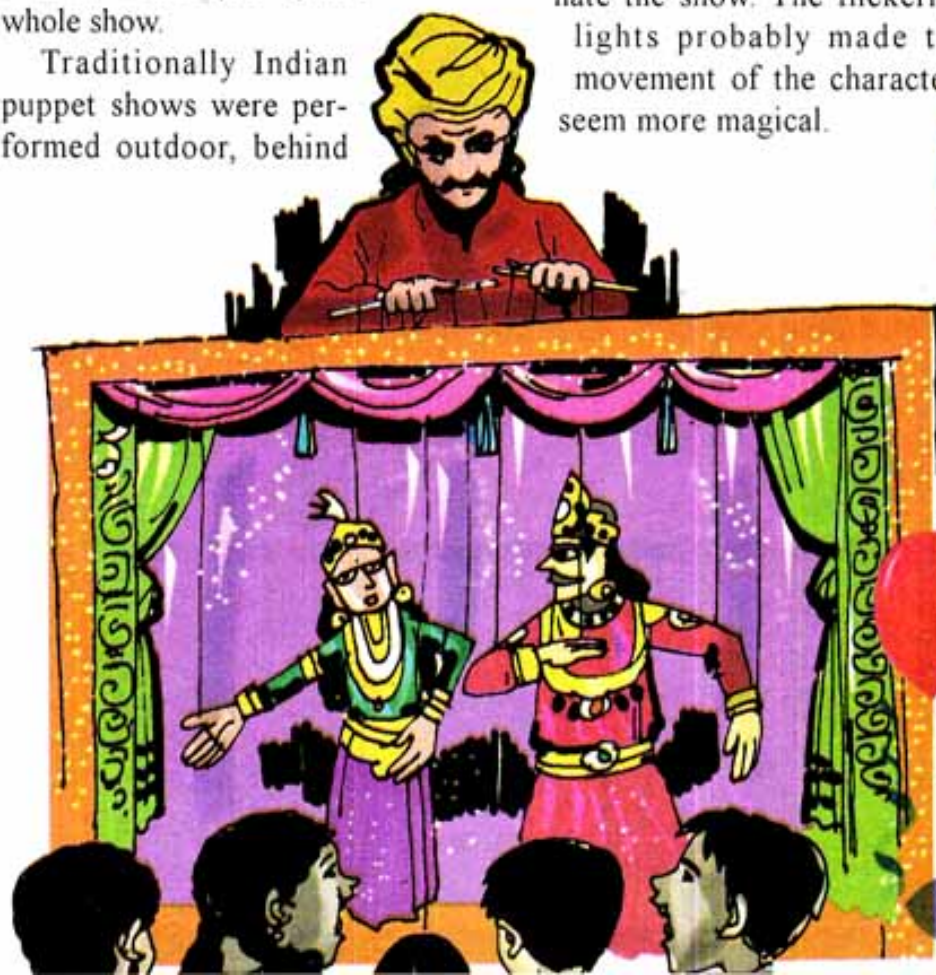
There are many types of puppets traditionally found in India. String puppets from Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, Tamilnadu, Karnataka; rod puppets from Bengal and glove puppets from Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Ancient puppeteers were mostly nomads who would carry with them their puppets and musical instruments. The whole village would gather to watch the show.

Wayang Parwa is an old form of Indian puppetry. An artist known as Dalang would put up the whole show.

Traditionally Indian puppet shows were performed outdoor, behind

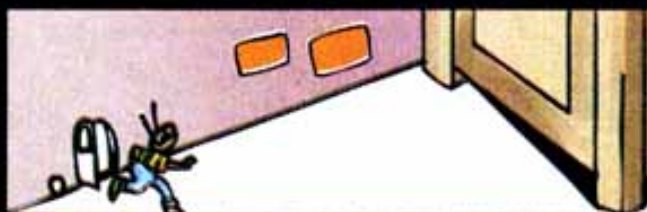
sheets of fabric hung from bamboos. A row of coconut shells behind the sheets would be filled with oil and lit up as lamps to illuminate the show. The flickering lights probably made the movement of the characters seem more magical.

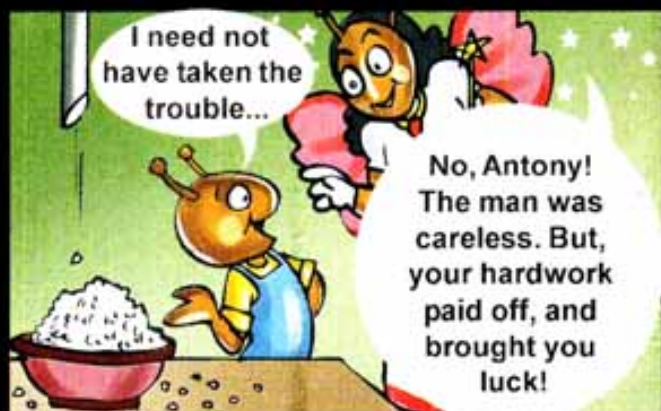
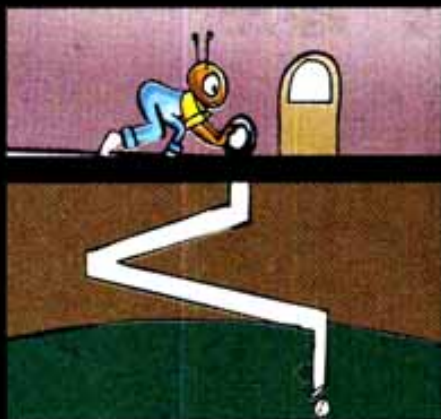


Antony and Grantina

in Luck and Labour

arttichudii



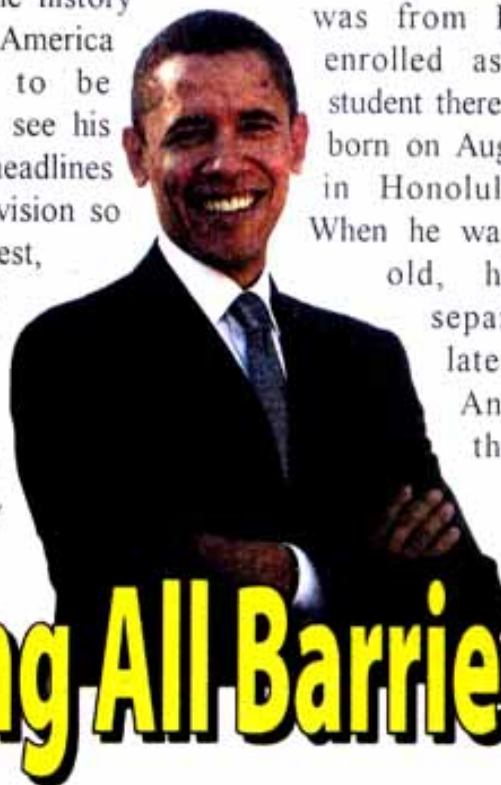


I need not
have taken the
trouble...

No, Antony!
The man was
careless. But,
your hardwork
paid off, and
brought you
luck!

Sandhya Sridhar

He is the fifth African-American senator in the history of the United States of America and the third one to be popularly elected. You see his face, his name in the headlines in newspapers, on television so often, and in the latest, he beat Hillary Clinton in the race towards the U.S. Presidential elections, becoming the presidential nominee for the party



* Barack Obama

Ann Dunham (who was from Kansas, U.S.) while both were attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa. His father, who was from Kenya, had enrolled as a foreign student there. Barack was born on August 4, 1961 in Honolulu, Hawaii. When he was two years old, his parents separated and later divorced. Ann Dunham then married

Breaking All Barriers...

called the Democrats. He is Barack Obama.

Why is Obama Important?

What is special about Obama and why is so much being written and talked about him? In a world driven by colour, Obama is one of the few powerful men to reach the top despite prejudices driven by race and colour. His father, Barack Obama Sr. met his mother,

Lolo Soetoro, an Indonesian, and the family moved to that country in 1967. Obama attended local schools in Jakarta till he was ten years old, after which he returned to Honolulu to live with his mother's parents and attended school there.

Obama remembers his mother as very strong and brave, a woman ahead of her time. He said in an interview, "She believed that people were all basically the same under their skin, that bigotry of any sort was wrong and that the goal was then to treat everybody

as unique individuals."

Obama then moved to Los Angeles where he studied at the Occidental College, then moved to Columbia University in New York to major in political science. Later, he went to Chicago to work as a director of the Developing Communities Project for a church-based organisation. He then went to Harvard Law School, from where he graduated and went on to work at a law firm. Interestingly, he shot to fame when he was elected the first black president of the magazine Harvard Law Review.

Because he got so much publicity from the election to the magazine, Obama received a contract to write a book about race relations, titled 'Dreams from My Father'. This was in mid-1995.

A Little Bit of History

Why has colour driven politics of the world to this extent? Fair skin (even in our country!) is seen as superior to the coloured, whether brown or black. Historically this has created misconceptions and prejudices. The 'white' man has ruled many parts of



* Abraham Lincoln



* Hillary Clinton



the world and for a couple of hundred years, their 'dark-skinned' brethren were considered only fit to be slaves. Trade in slaves flourished, with European sea farers bringing in cargos of slaves from Africa. About twelve million black Africans were shipped to the Americas from the 16th to the 19th centuries.

Of these, an estimated 645,000 (5.4% of the

total) were brought to what is now the United States. The majority were shipped to Brazil. The slave population in the United States had grown to four million by the 1860 Census, according to Wikipedia, the encyclopaedia on the internet. In 1861, the Civil War took place in America, and the then President Abraham Lincoln brought in laws to stop the practise of trading in and employing black men as slaves. From then till now, it has been an uphill struggle for people of African origin in America. They have been fighting to have equal rights with the whites!

president who is not of 'white' origin. And that's why Obama's rise to compete for the presidential seat has become so important. Incidentally, this competition between two candidates from America's democratic party to be voted as the presidential nominee has indeed created history – one has been a woman(Hillary Clinton), and the other(Obama) has been of mixed racial origin.

Obama the Man

Obama's wife Michelle, whom he married in 1992, has been a great supporter of her husband through the presidential campaign. He has two daughters, Malia, 9 and Sasha, 6. The family lives in Chicago.

The Future...

If Obama does go on to win and become President, it will truly herald a future where

colour, race or nationality blur and the world will seem more equal than before. For the U.S., which has always been a land where the 'grass has been green' for the developing countries of the world – will set the trend for others to follow; Obama will become an icon of minorities all over the world.



History is Being Made Today!

The U.S. has emerged as one of the world superpowers in the last couple of decades or so. But, the U.S. is a country that is yet to boast of a woman president, or a



1.6.99, this is the date of birth of my younger sister. I loved my sister Shama a lot. I used to carry her wherever I went. I enjoyed every moment of time spent with her. She used to call me Rocky. But that's not my pet-name. At the age of four, she

time. I was very upset too. So, I told her to think of me as her pet dog. Since then she began to call me Rocky.

One day, I was crying in our room because I had done poorly in my class test. Shama came and hugged me. She too started crying. "Why are you crying?" I asked her.

Shama -A Passing Cloud in My Life



wanted a dog as her pet and mother bought her one. But it died soon due to some infection. Shama cried for a long

"Because you were crying" She replied! Soon, we were laughing together.

Shama shared everything with me, even a 50 paise candy.

10.7.05 was the day... It is a day I would like to forget. My sister and I were going to the

nearby temple. I stopped to buy her an ice-cream. Since the road had to be crossed I asked her to wait on the opposite side. As I bought the ice-cream and waited to cross back to where she was, she came running towards me. She did not see the truck speeding towards her and my scream was drowned by the sound of its

Have Your Say

Changing Times or Ethics?

 Surely you will remember the Gurgaon, Madhya Pradesh and Shanthiniketan shootouts? These incidents have grabbed the front pages of all newspaper in the recent past. Hearing about these kind of incidents in foreign countries made me very unhappy. But when it happened in our own backyard, I was shocked. I had always prided myself in the fact that I was an Indian-that we were brought up in a very cultured, civilized and peaceful society.

Indeed, Indians are known for their tolerance and patience. But

these incidents have challenged my conviction. What could have happened that made these



brakes which the driver applied – but in vain!

Two days later, news came from the hospital. Shama was no more. I cried for more than six days without eating. Many of my relatives tried to calm me down. One of my cousin sisters told me to think of her as Shama. I smiled weakly and said I

would try, remembering how Shama consoled herself by calling me Rocky.

I can't control my emotions even now, when I think of Shama.

– G.Saravanan, Std.XII,
Justice Basheer Ahmed Sayeed
Memorial M.H.S.S. for Boys,
Chennai



alarmingly. Nowadays, school children discuss about punches and kicks in their free time.

Today's life-style and rapid development has forced parents to work 24x7. Quality time with children is considered to be

an outing to the cinema hall or shopping mall. Do parents sit with their kids and talk about daily happenings, for at least half-an-hour? Are adults

children deviate from normal human behaviour, that too at such a young age?

I don't think there is any point in blaming anyone. All of us are responsible, as a society, as a nation for the violence that is exploding all around.

The number of programmes thriving on the concept of hero-villain fights have increased

and children's role models patient and tolerant?

I do think we must make more time - both children and adults - not only to sit and discuss problems, but also to share joy and love.

– S.Subhasri,
Std.XII, Kendriya
Vidyalaya,
Chennai

Till 13 August, a factory meant to me, long chimneys, lot of smoke and an untidy floor. I thought that the floor would be littered with waste cotton pieces and lot of dust. But, to my joy and surprise I was proved wrong.

It was the biggest textile unit in Silvasa. It exported to many foreign countries.

It was a very interesting and impressive factory that we saw. The loose cotton was put in a machine and the machine removed the impurities from it. When the cotton was purified, it was so soft! It was then put into tubs. Another machine turned the cotton into bales and then in to yarn. The yarn was wound into huge rolls.

Then we went to the sizing unit. This unit was not so big. In this unit the yarn was sized, given strength and starched.

The weaving unit was the noisiest unit. When we entered, our heads and ears started ach-

ing! One yarn came down vertically from a loom and the other yarn ran across from left to right. When the yarns intersected in the machine, they were pulled together neatly and woven into cotton cloth. I was relieved to come out of the weaving unit! I didn't understand how people



A FACTORY

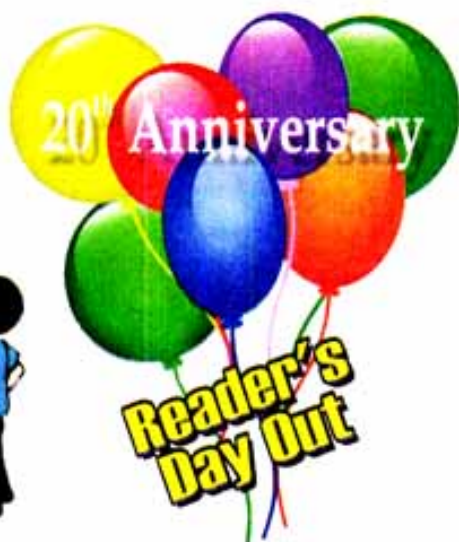
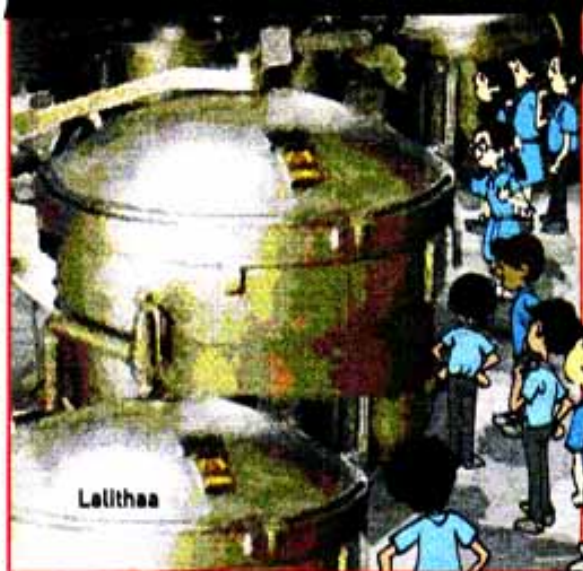
worked there with so much noise.

As dyeing was not allowed in Silvasa, either the cloth or the yarn itself was sent to the dyeing unit at Vapi.

We went to Vapi too and saw that the yarn was put in a circular machine which 'coloured' it! We could see many types of colours there. The dyed yarn and fabric were sent back to the main unit in Silvasa.

Then we were taken to the knit-





ting unit.

Here, the dyed or the plain yarn was put in circular machines which knitted them into soft cloth. The feel and texture of knitted cloth is very different from that of woven cloth.

Do you know that polyester is

We were then taken to the embroidery unit. We saw that there were huge machines. Coloured as well as white cloth was put in the machine. These machines were attached to a computer. Designs were fed into the computer and when the start button was pressed, the machine automatically cut and punched the design on the cloth!

At the end of our visit, we purchased some material. The factory owners gifted some shirts. It was really nice of them.

– Varun Venkatesh, Age:12,
Yashodham High School,
Mumbai

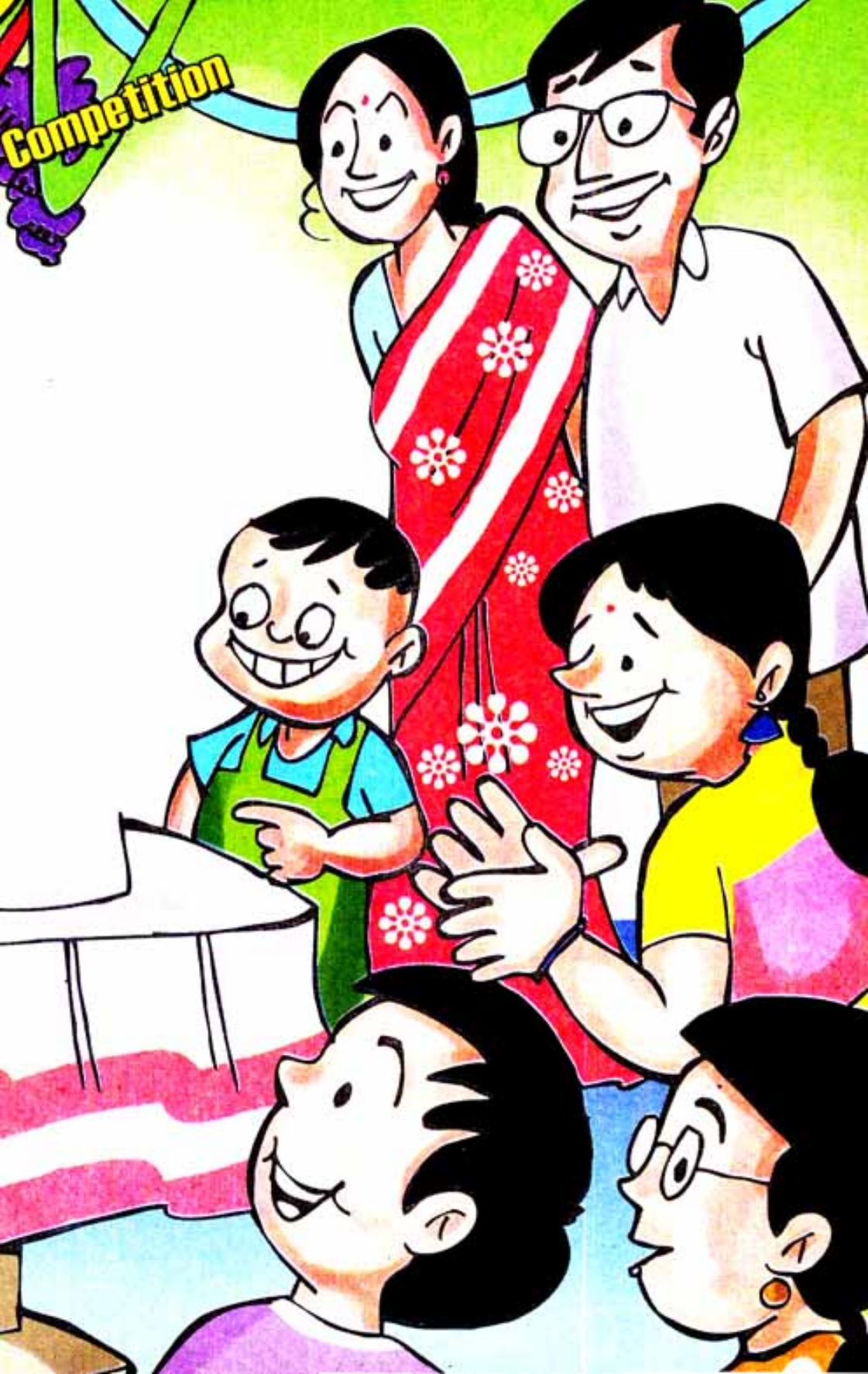
VISIT

made from petroleum? The by-product of petroleum is naphtha. The by-product of naphtha is parasyline. Parasyline is made into pet chips and then in to polyester. We went to the polyester unit too! It was smelly!



PARTY TIME!





Pen

You may be a pen
But you are the one who is going to win
I like you
Because you made me play with you
When I was a child
You made me so wild
When I couldn't write as well as my brother did.
You are the one who can make history
I do respect; salute you;
For you are mightier than the sword!
You never stop until you reach your goal
You can even conquer the whole world!

– K.J.Chelli Yazhini,
Std.X, D.A.V. BHEL School,
Ranipet - 6



It's 'TIME' to Know...

*Time comes and fast it goes,
How it happens, nobody knows!
Swiftly it flows like a river,
Once passed can return never.
For none it waits, for none it
stands,
But all wait for it, with hope of
fruitful grants!*

*Wise are those who respect time,
Inviting good luck, their fortunes
shine.
Time vanishes from the lazy's hands,
Just as wind blows away a fistful of
sand.
Time punishes duly; time also
rewards,
Its hard to say how, in a few words.
Time acts as a friend and sometimes
as a foe,
But future takes its shape from what
the past shows.
The deepest wounds, they say, time
shall heal,
So time's worthier than a diamond
I very strongly feel.*

– Abhishek Chatterjee,
Std.X, D.A.V. Public School,
Bhubaneswar



Books

Books are my best friends!
They give me company
When I'm lonely
Books are my best friends!

Books help me improve
My language and knowledge
Some stories that I read,
Make me sit on edge!

Books transform our life.
And transport us too
To a whole new world
Of which we never knew!

Books are filled up with
Fantasy, magic, adventures
Mysteries myths, facts,
And Nature's true wonders!

Books are my best friends
I always say,
They make me happy
They make me gay!



– S.Poornapriya, Std.V,
Kendriya Vidyalaya,
Chennai - 83



A Big Question!

How big is this universe?
If Earth is like a simple ball
Then Saturn would be the basket ball!
Who made this all?
Just imagine...
If God had made this,
Then who made God...?
Just once, imagine!

– Shabari Priya,
Std.VIII, Kendriya Vidyalaya No.1
Uppal, Hyderabad



Sandhya Sridhar

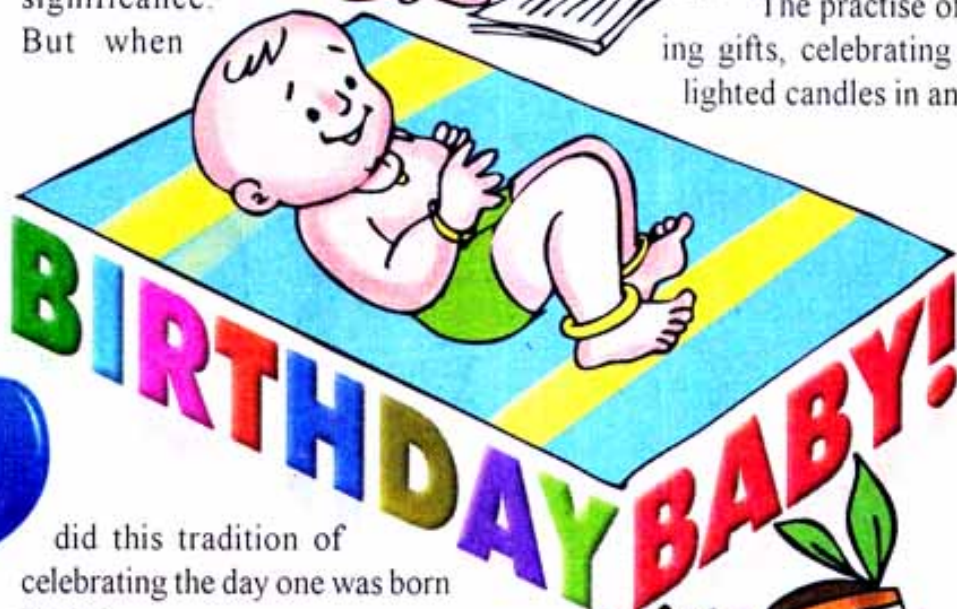
Many Happy Returns Gokulam!

Well, it is a special day. For each one of us, the day we are born is of special significance. But when

the birthdays of important personages like kings and nobles began to be celebrated in ancient Egypt, Rome, Greece, Persia, etc.

How did these celebrations originate?

The practise of giving gifts, celebrating with lighted candles in ancient



did this tradition of celebrating the day one was born begin?

The First Birthday Bash!

There was no large scale celebration of birthdays in the ancient world. But the recording of the birth date was important in ancient times, for the date and the time of birth were required for casting the person's horoscope. Thus was born the tradition of marking the birth date as an important day in the calendar. Later,



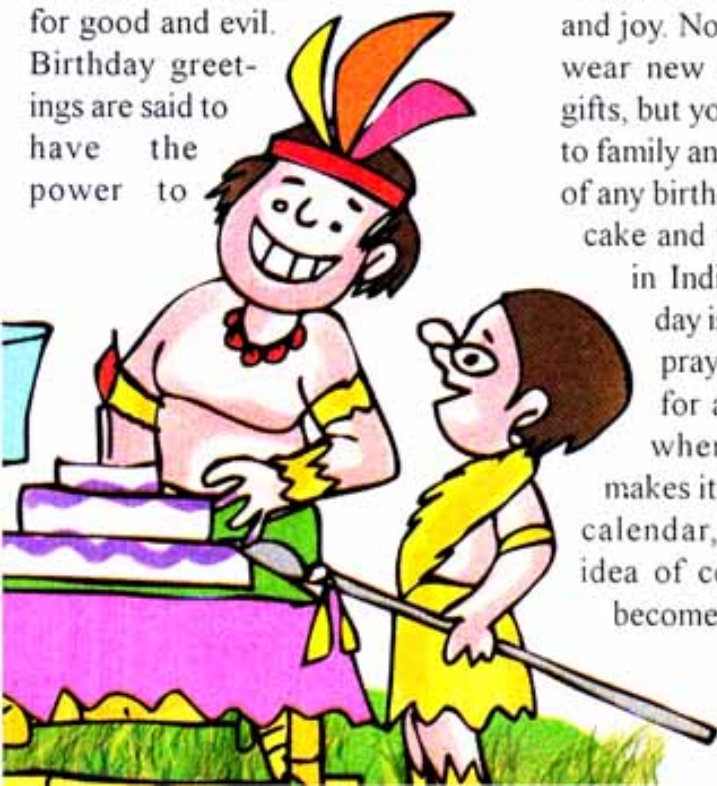
times all meant that the person was protected from evil spirits and demons. The Greeks believed that every person has a protective spirit, who is appeased by the offerings and keeps the person safe and secure for the coming year.

The Romans took this idea forward into the 'guardian angel concept', the 'patron saint' and the 'fairy godmother'. The ancients believed that birthday candles have the special magic of granting wishes.

The tradition spread to become what it is today.

Birthday Greetings

Wishing someone happy birthday is a tradition that has its roots in magic. This had its beginnings in the spells that were cast for good and evil. Birthday greetings are said to have the power to



make good things happen since one is believed to be closer to the spirit world on this day.

One's birthday celebrations were also meant to be in the honour of one's guardian angel or god.

Your Birthday

Everyone looks forward to one's birthday with anticipation and joy. Not only do you get to wear new clothes and receive gifts, but you also distribute sweets to family and friends. The high point of any birthday is the cutting of the cake and the party after. While in Indian tradition, a birthday is more to do with praying to the gods for all things good when your star makes its arrival on the calendar, the Western idea of celebration has become popular.

There is no age limit for a birthday





water-based games - place a coin at the bottom of a bucket of water and challenge your friends to hit the coin with a stone!), etc.

Or to make things simple, you can have a dress code. Ask guests to come dressed in specific colours or a particular kind of dress, eg: traditional Indian clothing.

celebration - you could be nine or ninety-nine. If you are a popular figure like a politician or a film/sports star, chances are that your birthday literally becomes a public event!

Happy Birthday Gokulam!

While Gokulam celebrates its XXth birthday this month, it is much like a public personality-celebrating with you, dear readers. But much as we would like the pomp and pageantry of a celebration, we think it's time to change the way we look at birthdays with some super ideas to celebrate. Here's how:

Theme Party:

Create a theme. You can have a jungle theme (make or buy animal masks for all invitees), tribal theme (ask your friends to come dressed as tribals), or even a water theme (your friends can come dressed as water creatures and you can have

Share on Your Birthday

One way to have a nice birthday party with a few of your select good friends is to ask your parents to choose an orphanage or Children's Home where you can celebrate with children who are less privileged. You need to go to the orphanage and let them know what you plan, fix a time, etc so that they are also prepared. You need to transport your birthday menu and celebrate there, instead of at your home.

Another way to share is to tell your parents to gift away the money that they would spend on your party to a good cause of your choice. There are animal shelters, welfare organizations, etc that would appreciate your contribution. You could have a simpler party without the frills and feel good that you have made a difference to the world.

Whichever way you choose to celebrate, yes, your birthday is special. So is Gokulam's! Have fun!

20th Anniversary

Laugh
a
Little!



Father (to his son in high school): Son, if you pass your exams, I will buy you a two-wheeler.

Son: And if I fail?

Father: A three-wheeler!

Arpita
Dwivedi,
Std.III,
AWIC-VT
Children's
Library, Tezu
Arunachal
Pradesh



Customer to Shop keeper: How can this box be opened?

Shop keeper: The instructions for opening are inside the box, Ma'm.

*Complex
Instructions!*



Teacher: We will have class for half a day in the morning.

Students: Yaay! Jolly!

Teacher: We will have the other classes in the afternoon.

Nivedha Ganesh,
Age: 9,
Chennai



Teacher: What is the future tense of 'I robbed a bank'?

Rina : You will go to jail.



with wings.
After they fly off
to start new colonies,
they lose their wings.

- There are more than 12,000 species of ants in the world.

- Ants don't just come in

- The perfect place for a picnic:-

FANTASTIC Creatures!

black and red - they can also be green, yellow, blue, brown or purple!

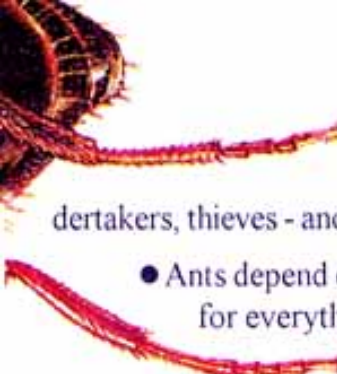
- Most ants are omnivorous - they eat everything... including other insects.

- Queen ants are born

There are no ants in Iceland, Greenland or Antarctica.

- Ants hear with their knees and smell with their antennae.

- The life of an ant colony is a lot like ours: There are carpenters, farmers, warriors, teachers, hunters,



guards,
nurses, un-
dertakers, thieves - and even beggars.

- Ants depend on their colony for everything; a lone ant



Mutual Dependence

Bull's Horn Acacia is a tree that grows in South America. It has a close bonding with ants! This tree's fearsome 'horns' serve to deter animals. But, the acacia allows the queen ant to bore holes in its 'horns' to lay eggs. It also provides nectar to the ants, nutritious fat and rich, small fruit for the larvae that hatch from the eggs.

Other insects that are attracted to the tree are gorged upon by the worker ants! These ants also eat up all the alien seedlings in the vicinity of thirty centimetre radius around the tree, thus providing an unhindered environment for the acacia to grow!

(Source: Newspaper)

—A.Sudarshan,
Std.X, R.C.Patel EMS. School,
Shirpur



can't survive on its own.

- Scientists think that ants probably evolved from wasps.

● Tropical leafcutter ants are farmers of a sort. They chew leaves to make pulp, then use the decaying leaf pulp to make fungus gardens, which they later harvest for food!

Source: *Fact Book*
—Jayeeta Sen Mazumder
Std.VII,
Delhi Public School,
Navi Mumbai

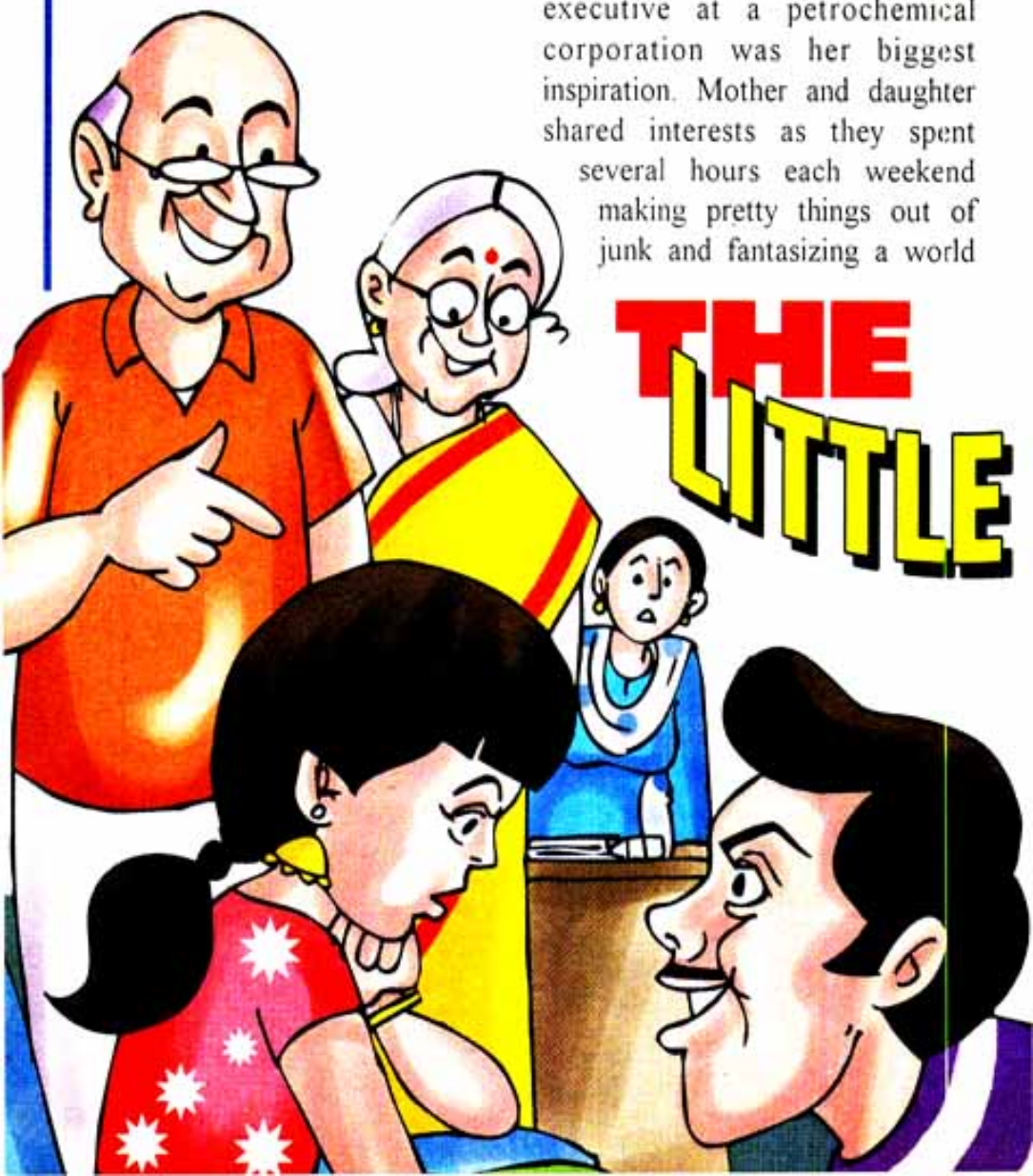


Like every other afternoon, Vedha was slumped in the seat of the autorickshaw that took her back home from school. Her stomach growled as she took in the aroma from the road-side snack bar. But the many lessons of hygiene she had learnt from her mother returned to mind and checked her thoughts. She turned

to look at the florist's. "Twigs and Blooms". What a clever name! She wondered what she would call her shop if she were a florist. She closed her eyes and let her thoughts laze.

Vedha, an only child, was a sixth grader at a convent and loved the arts. Mrs. Kumar, Vedha's mother, an administrative executive at a petrochemical corporation was her biggest inspiration. Mother and daughter shared interests as they spent several hours each weekend making pretty things out of junk and fantasizing a world

THE LITTLE



of their own. On several occasions they would be joined by the rest of the family; the great-grandmother, grandfather, grandmother, two aunts and two uncles. Vedha and her mother had lived with their maternal family ever since Vedha's father had passed away when she was still a baby. It was a very happy family that doted on Vedha.

Vedha ran into the house, flung her bag onto the couch and shook off her shoes. Abiding by the rules of the family, she quickly washed, changed and sat down to lunch. As she bolted down her food, she recounted her day

following it up with her excuses for not finishing the snack that her grandma had packed for her that day. She still had three hours to finish her homework before her friends came calling her out to play.

That night as the family sat together for dinner, Vedha announced that there was to be a "White Christmas" at her school that year, as a part of which each student would bring presents which would then be distributed to the poor and the under-



privileged. To add fun to the event the school had also organized a fest where the students could put up their own stalls and the proceeds would be directed to the

ENTREPRENEUR-1

White Christmas. Vedha asked for her family's ideas on what kind of a stall she should put up. Everybody had something to suggest. Her grandmother offered to make her some snacks that she could sell while her grandfather suggested that she could play people's favourite songs on her keyboard for them. Her aunts proposed that she paint her "client's" fingernails and make pretty designs on their palms with traditional "mehendi" since

Vedha could draw and paint very well. Her uncles thought that it would be best if Vedha held a lottery while her mother simply said that she should think up her own little stall to put up.

Now Vedha had her head so full of ideas that she thought maybe she should do just everything. But that wouldn't work, would it? She certainly could not play the keyboard with one hand and paint somebody's fingernails with the other. It would be a disaster! After a lot of thinking she decided to give herself some time to decide on

That day, all talk during recess was about who would put up what stall. One of her friends was going to sell flowers while the other was going to sell trinkets. One other said that she was going to sell juice and soft drinks. One by one Vedha found all of the ideas that her family had given her being taken up by her friends.

That evening she did not go out to play. She went up to the terrace and looked out into the city. The lights from the streets blurred in her sight, Vedha thought about the fest and her stall. After an hour of futile effort, she headed



She certainly could not play the keyboard with one hand and paint somebody's fingernails with the other. It would be a disaster!

what to do. After all, the fest was still a couple of weeks away.

With all the homework and the tests, that week flew by and so did the next. Vedha almost forgot all about the fest until three days before the event when the students who were planning to put up a stall were asked to sign up, so that they could be assigned slots in the school's playground.

back home. Finding her mother home, Vedha threw herself onto her lap and told her what had happened. Her mother comforted her and suggested that they take a walk and get an ice cream to see if it would open up her mind.

How well her mother knew her! Vedha did get a brainwave. When they came back home, she was so excited that she tossed and turned in bed for a long time before she finally fell asleep.

(to conclude in the next issue)

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

Beginning
next issue (2008)
(September)

**CAUGHT!
in the
CITY!**



a new
Serial by **PAVITHRA SRINIVASAN**



Lalithaa



cartoon or a picture of an animal or bird.

iii) Cut along the outline and colour it with bright colours. Remember to give a bold outline to the picture.

iv) Make two holes in the upper and lower parts of

Things Required:

Cardboard

Chart paper (white in colour)

Adhesive

Colours (either paints or crayons)

Thread (thick)

Bamboo stick

Scissors



Procedure:

i) Take the cardboard and paste the chart paper on it.

ii) Draw your favourite





4



the picture. The holes in the lower part should be wide apart.

v) Insert the thread in the upper holes and form a loop. Attach a bamboo stick at the ends of the thread in the lower part of your picture cut-out.

vi) Your towel hanger is ready. Hang up the upper loop thread on a nail and suspend your towel over the bamboo rod.

Note: Size of the cardboard picture could vary, depending upon the size of the towels you use.

– Divya Das,
Std.X, Vivekananda Kendra
Vidyalyaya, Port Blair

5



A TOWEL HANGER

When I was in class VIII, a programme called "English Week" was organized in our school, Vidya Mandir. The rule was that all should talk in English for seven days inside the school campus. Handwriting, Poem recitation, Book review, Drama, Essay competitions were held simultaneously. I participated in three competitions. On poem recitation day, I was a little nervous. When my turn came, I went to the dais and recited a poem I had written myself.

When all competitions were over, the prize giving ceremony was held. The prayer hall was full of

students. Obviously there was excitement and anxiousness in everybody's mind about the results. Our teacher announced the winners' names one after another. Finally the results of poem recitation were announced. Since my name did not figure in essay and book review competition results, I was slightly unhappy. But the recitation competition results dispelled my depression! In fact, my joy knew no bounds. Soon I went to the stage to receive the first prize from the chief guest. My friends gave me a big hand and the teachers encouraged me to do well in future.

– Sharmistha Meher,
Std.X, Shree
Ganesh Girl's High
School,
Sambalpur,
Orissa



GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

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The Best of All

Last New Year's eve, my parents presented my little brother and I a Year Book. It covered all the important incidents that had happened during 2007. I was so glad to receive this book. I have termed it as the second best gift I have ever received. 'Which is the best gift then?' you may ask... well, my family and friends are the best of all the gifts I have received - they are gifts from God!

– Meenakshi .G. Std.IX,
J.B.Khot HS, Mumbai

Swept Down!

This happened when I was just five years old. My parents had taken me to visit Mekedatu - a picnic spot in Karnataka. A rivulet was flowing and my parents sat on a rock, allowing me to play at the edge of the water-flow. I saw a little white stone, further down in the water and started moving towards it slowly. Suddenly, I felt myself being swept down by a strong current of water. I was gasping for breath and had water in my ears and mouth. Fortunately, the swift current pushed me on to a boulder and I caught hold of it. By then my parents were by my side and I was immediately given first-aid. This is not something I can forget easily!

– Sheethal R. Holla, Std.VI,
Jyothy Kendriya Vidyalaya, Bengalooru

Innocent Remark!

As a three year old kid I went with my parents to a cinema theatre for the first time. When the movie began I was amazed at the size of the screen and gasped loudly, "What a big TV this is!" Needless to say that this evoked the merry laughter of all in the theatre who heard me. My parents still lovingly tease me about this incident.

– M.R.Nandini, Std.IX,
Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan
H.S.S, Erode



To Live with Love

Recently I went to Shiridi, where the samadhi of Guru Saibaba lies. (Shiridi is in Ahmednagar district, Maharashtra). I saw huge crowds of people offering prayers. They were from various sects and religions. It is said that no one knows about where Shiridi Baba was born or who his parents were. But that does not really matter. He taught love and service through his life. He had miraculous healing powers. His message to all was to forget differences and live with love. My visit to Shiridi made me realise this.

– K.Keerthana, Std.X,
S.V.Union H.S, Pune.



Indoor Fountain!

I love fountains for the sound of falling water that emanates from them. Last summer, while I longed for a spell of rain, I wondered if I could design a fountain myself. I thought of my air cooler. It has a compartment into which water is poured and a motor sucks it up to fall on the mat placed in the space above. I opened the cooler and removed the mat so that little rivulets of water flowed directly into the metal compartment. Pitter - patter, pitter-patter, - it sounded like rain and looked a little like a fountain too! Ofcourse I got a scolding for it. But I cleaned up the splash with grandma's help.

–R.Athreya, Std.X, D.A.V.
Sr.Sec.School, Chennai

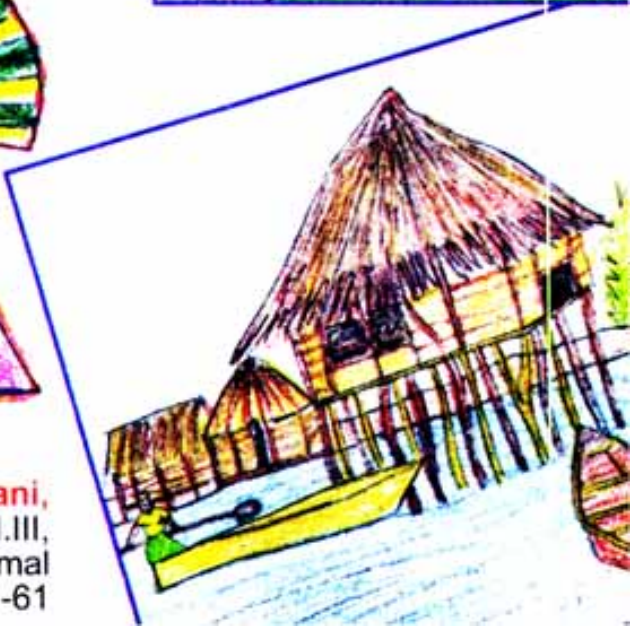
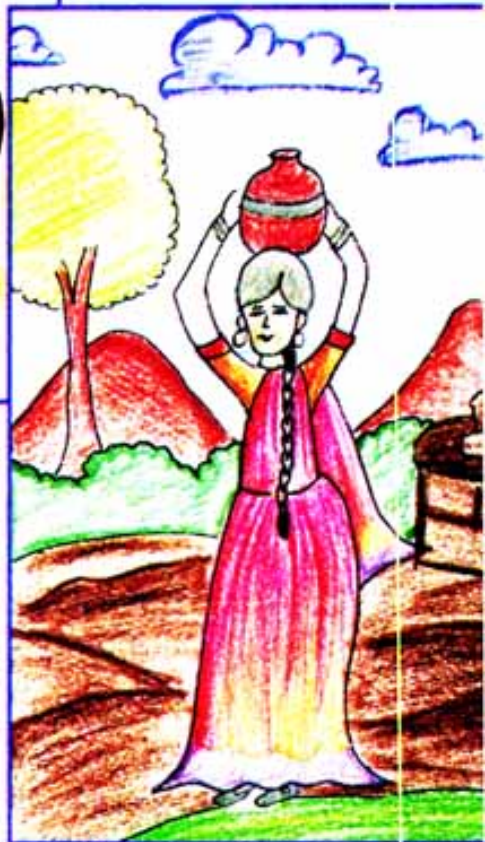


▲ **Apoorva M.Kamath,**
Std.VIII,
Canara Girls' High School,
Mangalore



▲ **R.Janani,**
Std.III,
The Hindu Colony Chellamal
Vidhyalaya, Chennai-61

A.Sheetal Mary,
Std.IX,
St.Anne's Convent
School, Chandigarh



Gokulam STUDIO



▲ **Swati Iyer,**
Std.VI,
D.A.V.Public School,
Mumbai



▲ **Diksha Das,**
Std.VIII,
School,
Camel Sr.Sec.School,
Port Blair

▲ **C.A.Divya,**
Std.IX,
Good Sheperd M.H.S.S.,
K.K.Dist., Tamilnadu



All
Gokulam
Readers
and
Contributors...

Attention!

Most of you have been sending us jokes, facts and snippets gathered from the internet or G.K. books. Do show us how original you can be. Write your thoughts and ideas on various issues. Report funny happenings at school or home. Do make sure that you put down your name, age, class, school name and residential address individually on each and every contribution that you send to Gokulam.

★ The best ones will be published and a participation certificate will be sent to the contributor.

★ Please preserve your participation certificates. **In case you don't receive the certificates which are mailed to you by Gokulam, keep a xerox copy of your contribution in your collection.**

★ All competition entries should reach us before the last date mentioned.

★ Entries to Birthday Bash column should reach us along with the appropriate message and photographs **two months before the birthday.**

★ Do be original in your contributions and creations. If you have based your writing on a source, be sure to acknowledge it and name it and...

NEVER EVER COPY!



Zero In - 1



Hullo Children! Are you all set for the new puzzle mode? It's quite a familiar one. 'Fill up the squares with the help of the clues given. Rearrange the circled letters from each word you get, to zero in on the final answer. You have a clue to help you with this too!



1. Olympics started here

--	--	--	--	--	--

2. Mark Spitz created a record in this event in Olympics

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

3. Centenary Olympics was conducted at this city

--	--	--	--	--	--

4. The event which has swimming, cycling and running is called thus

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

5. She won india's only medal in the Sydney Olympics

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

6. City in Spain where Olympics was conducted

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer:

They are represented in Olympic flag

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Fill in the form on the reverse of this page and send in your entries to Gokulam before 20.08.08

- G.S.S



GULLU'S CROSSWORD - 11

Congratulations!

Here are the winners of Gullu's Crossword - 11 (June 2008) and the solutions as well. The results of Gullu's Crossword - 12 will be published in the September 2008 issue.

1	S	T	O	2	U	T		3	L	A	W	
	A				N				A			
4	P	R	I	C	K			5	C	O	6	P
	L				L			7	A			E
	I			8	P	E	N	N	Y			A
	N				S			Y				C
9	G	O	10	D			11	H	E	L	L	O
					A			A				C
12	W	E	D				13	C	R	O	O	K

1. Sudarshan Gopal, Std.V, Apeejay School, Sheikh Sarai, New Delhi
2. T. Subramaniam, Std.VII, Air Force School, Hebbal, Bengalooru
3. S. Nayantara, Std.VII, Gulf Indian School, Kuwait

4. N.Rajalakshmi, Std.VII, Brilliant Mat.H.S.S., Chennai -19
5. Suhasini Ramani, Std.V, G.D.Birla Centre for Education, Kolkata

ZERO IN - 1 Entry Form

Name : (Mr/Ms)

Age :

Class :

School :

*Residential Address :

.....Pin

Signature :

* Local address is a must for overseas entries.

The Editor, Gokulam, Kalki Buildings,

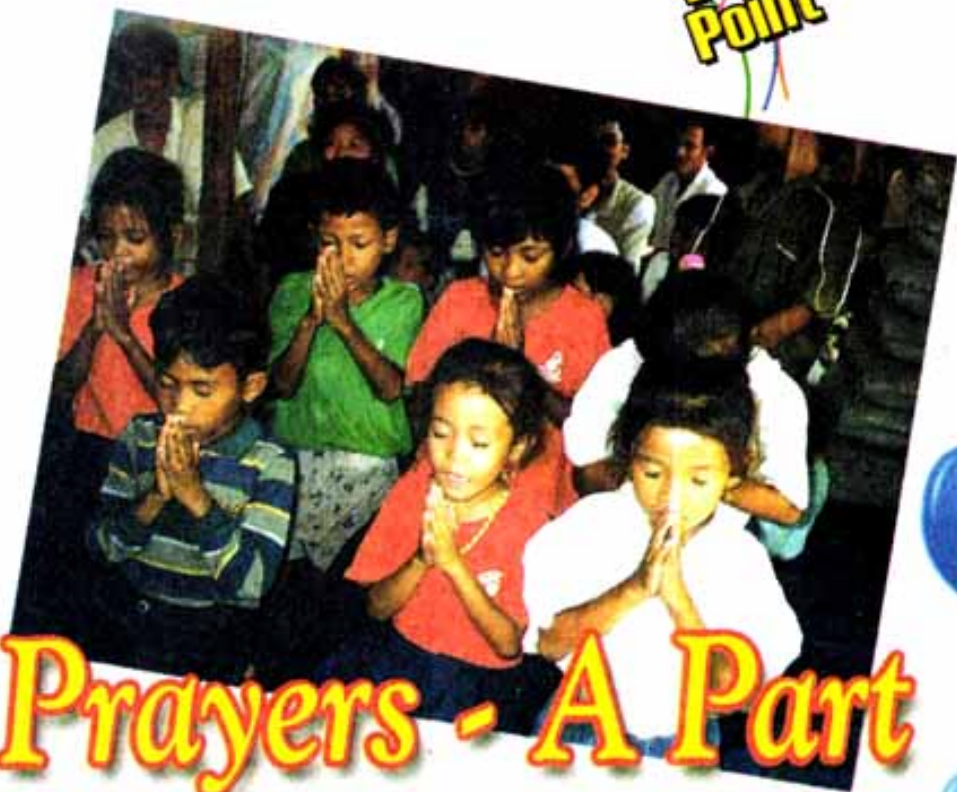
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.

• Strictly for school going children • Five lucky winners will get a cash award of Rs.50/- each. They will be decided by a draw of lots from out of the all correct entries. • Entries with completed grid on the reverse accepted on this form only • No xerox copies.

Last Date : 20.8.2008

A religious prayer in school must be one which brings about unity among students and helps us to understand that god is one.

– K.Shruthi, Std. VIII, Green Park MS, Namakkal; Jayeeta Sen Mazumdar, Std. VII, Delhi Public School, Navi Mumbai



Prayers - A Part of Our Heritage!

Yes, it is good. It increases harmony between students of different communities, and helps students to respect different religions and cultures.

– Sruthi .S.Iyer, Std. VII, Vasant

Vihar High School &
Jr.College, Thane;
Keerthi Vijay, Std. V,
N.P.S, Bengalooru;
Puranjan Dev, Std. V,
Buxi Jagabandhu En-
glish Medium School,
Bhubaneshwar

No, it is not good to have religious prayers in school because it may cause differences between children of different faiths. Better to have a secular prayer.

– Meeralakshmi, Age 13, Lakshmi School, Madurai - 1; E.Santhi, Std. XI, Subbiah Vidyalaya GHSS, Tuticorin

Praying to the Almighty is a must. It helps us develop a positive attitude to life and gives peace of mind. But the prayers need not be religious.

– V.Surya, Std. XII, GRT Mahalakshmi Vidyalaya, Chennai; A.Shravanthi, Std. XII, Dr P.G.U. MHSS, Coimbatore; H.Svetha, Std. IX, TVS Academy, Hosur; Astra Chowdary, Std. X, Bhashyam Public School, Vizianagaram

Why not have different prayers of different religions on each day of the week? They would all be channels to reach the Supreme Power.

– Avnee Nathani, Std. XI, Naimisharanya School, Bhavnagar, Gujarat

When sung or chanted in a group, prayers imbibe in us a sense of unity. They give us much needed strength and a feeling of humility. It is good to have prayers in school.

– Ankita Pujari, Std. X, V.S.Vidyalaya, Sunabeda (Orissa); Ajay Ashok, Std. X, St.Michaels', Chennai



QUESTION FOR THE MONTH

Should children help with house-work and running the family?

Send us your views by 19.8.2008. Each published entry

All schools must have religious prayers of all religions. Children would learn to respect all religions. It would foster secularism.

– Sanchayan Ghosh, Std. VI, Sindhi High School, Benglooru; I.Indhuja, Std. IX, RSK HSS, Trichy; S.Rakshatha, Std. V, K.V. Pangode, Trivandrum; Sparsa Chowdary, Std. VIII, Bhashyam Public School, Vizianagaram; Malavika Shamesh, Std. VI, Christ Nagar International School, Trivandrum

In a secular country like India, religious prayers in school are unnecessary. It is better to have a silent prayer. Otherwise religious contradictions would disturb prayer.

– A. Avinash, Std. X, K.V., Tambaram; R.Priyanka, Std. X, St.Ann's MHSS, Chennai

Prayers can be a weekly routine. We should not spend too much time over it.

– Srikar Donapati, Std. VIII, CMSW, Dallas, Texas

Religious prayers would lead to discrimination on the basis of reli-

will receive a prize of Rs. 25/-. Remember to include details of your age, class, school and residential address. Those of you who are non-residents of India should send us a local (Indian) address too. You can send entries by post or by e.mail (gokulam@kalkiweekly.com)

gion and therefore it is not good to have them in schools.

– Ayesha Amrin, Std. VII, D.A.V. Public School, Orissa; Maheshwari Iyer, S.Uma, Age 13, Kaiga; G.Raja Gowri, Age : 10, Chetikulam; Manoj Ravi, Age 15, Maharishi Vidya Mandir, Chennai; R.Thanyapurani, Std. X, Dr.P.G.U.MHSS, Varappalayam

Instead of prayers we could have T.M or Yoga, or a Universal prayer adopted to cater to all religions.

– R.Archana, Std. IX, T.V.S. M.H.S.S., Madurai; Monalisa Padhy, Std. X, Stewart School, Bhubaneswar; V.Jayakrishnan, Std.VIII, B.3 Mont Vert 1, K.V.G.K.

Ofcourse, we must have religious prayers. They increase our faith, protect us and keep our minds clear.

– T. Barnali, Std. VII, DAV Public School, Bhubaneswar; Shreyas Kothandarama, Age : 13, P.M.M. Innerwheel School, Mumbai; C. Ishwarya, Std. XI, SVS GHSS, Trichy; N.Sarasija, Std. VIII, PSBBSSS, Chennai; Rohit

Gangwani, Std. IX, SFS School, Nagpur; V.Sriram, Std. IX, MES Kishora Kendra, Bengalooru; Ravee Shankar, Std. XI, G.D.MHSS, Coimbatore; Sivagnanapagam Priya, Std. XII, Bharath Montessori MHSS, Ilangi; R.Vamsi, Std. VIII, K.V. Tanjavur.

Religious prayers are a part of our heritage and must be a part of school activity so that we understand this.

– Puranjan Dev, Std. V, Buxi Jagabandhu English Medium School, Bhubaneswar

Religious prayers are not necessary. Instead, schools could have silent prayers followed by a national song or patriotic songs.

– P.Tharini, Std. X, Ponniah Ramajayam Public HSS, Tanjavur; S.Dhivya, Std. XI, Devi Academy MHSS, Chennai; Sindhu, Std. XII, Greenpark MHSS, Namakkal

Religious prayers should not be discriminatory; nor should students be forced into practising the tenets or customs of a particular religion. With these safeguards, it is alright to have religious prayers.

– Umaira Khan, Std. X, Touheed English Medium School, Gangothi, Karnataka





GUESS WHO?

Picture by :

Maanasa Natrajan,
Std.V, Jnanodaya School,
Bengalooru

Sarbani Chakraborty,
Port Blair
Somya Vasudevan,
Trichy

Srinivas, Bengalooru
Kamesh Krishnamoorthy,
Bengalooru

Arjun Shankar, Chennai

Hi Readers,

The answer to the query at the end of the story 'From Saint to Sinner' (July issue) is : Sage Valmiki. Among hundreds of correct entries the first five to reach us were:

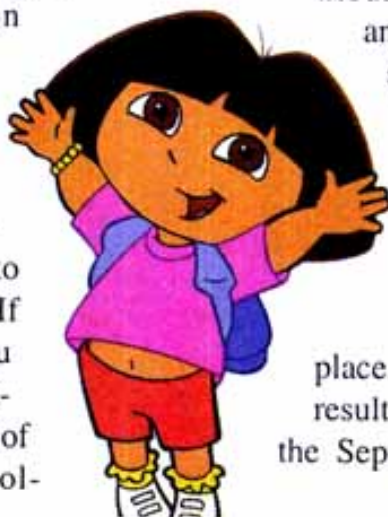
The early bird winners each win a copy of 'The Ramayana'. The book will be mailed to them soon.

Dear Children,

Attention, those of you who have been collecting Gokulam Participation Certificates! Its time now for you to count them. If you think you have a considerable number of certificates col-

lected between August 2007 and July 2008, xerox them onto sheets of paper and mail us your claim to be crowned as chief contributor, Gokulam! If any certificate we sent, has not reached you, place a xerox copy of the contribution (printed in Gokulam) in its place. Hurry up. The result will be out in the September issue!

- Editor



SMART ONES!

1. What is common to tomato and onion?

Ans : They both begin and end with two letters in the same order : tomato: onion.

2. Why did Mickey Mouse go into outer space?

Ans : To find Pluto!

3. Which is the strongest day of the week?

Ans : Sunday. All other days are 'week' days!

4. A dog biting its tail is like a good manager; why?

Ans : Because he 'makes both ends meet'!



- S.Vishakan, Std.III,
Jawahar Vidyalaya S.S.S.,
Chennai - 83



LOOK AT HER!

Just turn the picture
upside down...

Wow!

- K.R.B. Rohini, Age 12,
Chennai - 40.

LOOK AT HER!

TEST YOUR G.K.!

Which comic character celebrated his fiftieth anniversary in the year 2001.

Ans : Dennis the Menace

Who is called the father of Greek Tragedy?

Ans : Aeschylus.

Who was the first athlete to be awarded the Padmashri?

Ans : Milkha Singh

Which cartoon character has a sister called Dumbella?

Ans : Donald Duck.

- S.Sethupathi Vikram, Madurai



Dear Grandma,

I can't control temptations!

Please help me.

– N.R.Sriram, Bengalooru

Dear Sriram,

Temptations are a natural part of life and have been in existence from the days of Adam and Eve! So don't feel sorry for yourself. Yielding to temptation is not a great sin. But you have to learn to (a) differentiate between right and wrong and (b) avoid anything in excess. For example, Anand drops his wallet inadvertently and walks away. Swamy is tempted to pick it up and pocket it as his own! This is totally wrong since it is nothing but theft. Swamy must have the courage to avoid this bad temptation. In another scenario Rupa is tempted to watch T.V. But she restricts viewing to 20-30 minutes and enjoys her favourite programme. She knows that spending more time with the 'Box' will interfere with her stud-

ies. Rupa has yielded to temptation but she knows where to stop!

★ ★ ★

I cannot enjoy my holidays for I'm given lots of home work! I



don't have any time to play! Please help.

– T.Soundarya, Chennai

Dear Soundarya,

You must realise that homework is given not to make you miserable but for your own betterment. Once you accept this, home work will not be a burden but a means to an end, viz., scoring better in exams. Ofcourse you have to enjoy your holidays too. Games are a must, not only on holidays but on school days also. Half an hour or forty minutes of vigorous exercise through games will keep you stay trim and healthy. It will also help you in



HELP! I CAN'T RESIST

your studies because your mind is relaxed and your body is fit. But you must also remember that the opposite of a popular proverb will read as follows and is also true: "All play and no work makes Jack a dull boy!"

★ ★ ★

How many hours of study should I put in? How can I utilise my time in the most efficient manner? How can I organize my work properly?

– Radhika Ramesh,
Dombivli (w)

Dear Radhika,

The number of hours of study that one should put in varies from person to person. It depends on the



person's ability to concentrate, understand and absorb. So you will have to judge for yourself. As for time management, so many books



have been written and lectures given on the subject. But the essence of all that is the proverb, "Time and tide wait for no man!" Observe these two golden rules: (a) Always be conscious of time so that you don't waste even a minute. (b) Try to combine routine with another work to the extent possible. For example, you can recall what you studied while bathing or while riding a bus to school. You can carry a "must read" book wherever you go. Even a traffic jam can help you to read a few pages. Think of such ideas to save time. Draw up a daily work schedule and stick to it 99 percent even if you can't achieve cent percent!

★ ★ ★

I want to join western

TEMPTATIONS!



music classes. My dad agrees but my mom does not, she says it can't be my career. What should I do?

— Milind Jakati,
Vasco, Goa

Dear Milind,

Since your father agrees with your request, you are already half way through to achieving what you want. Speak to your mother gently, in the presence of your father and tell her that learning an art besides your lessons is an important diversion. It sensitises your mind. It is not necessary, nor is it possible for every person learning an art to become a professional. Art in any form fills the mind with peace and joy and that experience cannot be measured in terms of money spent and the return got out of it. I'm sure your mother will understand.

There is a boy in our apartment building who teases others in a vulgar language. I'm scared even to warn him, What



should I do?

— J.S.Sai Nivedita,
Navi Mumbai

Dear Sai,

There is a proverb in Tamil which says, "whenever you see a bad char-



acter, keep your distance!" But in modern days, with lots of apartments in the same building, it is difficult to avoid coming in contact with all kinds of people, desirable and undesirable. The best way to handle the situation is to talk to your parents into inviting this boy and his parents to your apartment for tea. Be sure that none of you talk about his behaviour. When he feels the friendship between the elders he will give up teasing you and talk straight. Give him his chance. But if he doesn't mend his ways, there is no other go except to talk frankly with his parents, which I'm sure your parents can handle nicely and in a friendly manner.

Love,
Grandmaworm

Ingredients :

100 gms banana chips

2 onions

½ cup coriander leaves (chopped)

¼ cup tomato ketchup

Pani puri's puri (optional)

Method :

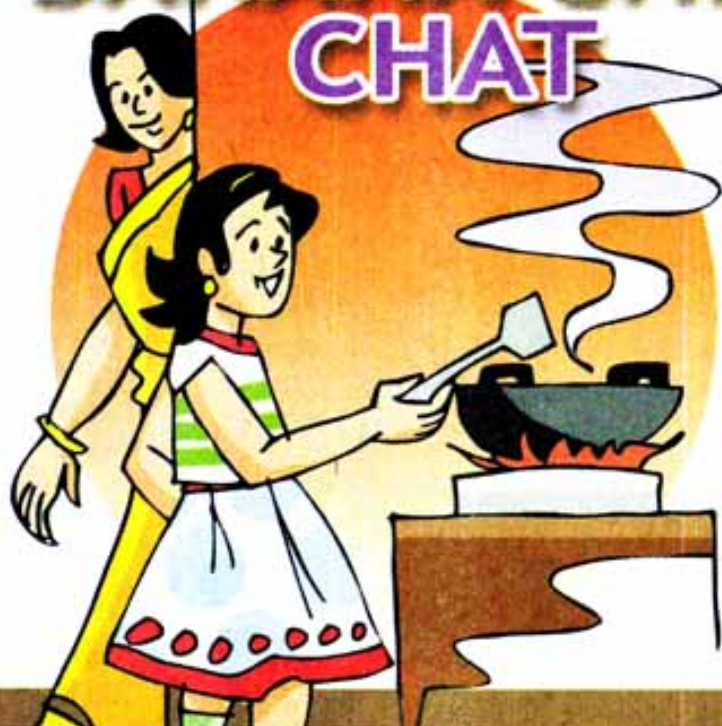
Chop the onions and mix with coriander leaves. Add banana chips to it and mix again. Add tomato ketchup to this and mix it till all the ingredients blend well. You can even add crushed pani puri's puri if you like.

You can savour this chat with your evening tea.

– Anusha P.Kamath,
II PUC, Canara PU College,
Mangalore



BANANA CHIPS CHAT



I am a new reader and I think Gokulam is the best magazine in the world. First, I began reading it for the Potter pages. But, after some months, I began to like everything. Why don't you publish a poster of Ron and Hermione.

**- Sarbani Chakraborty,
Std.VIII, KV1, Port Blair**

Thankyou Gokulam! I have a penpal because of you. You are not only a vehicle of education but also a means of communication!

**- Sonia Samantaray, Std.VII,
St. Joseph's H.S., Bhubaneswar**

This magazine has made me into a reader of books I am very thankful to Gokulam.

**- Pooja R.Kulkarni, Std.IX,
St. Mary's H.S., Belgaum**

It's a great pleasure to read you and many other children too think so. The Art corner and Harry Potter news are so lovable. How about some Potter Posters? By, the way, I have written a little verse about you :

*Dear Gokulam,
reading you is bliss.
But for you, a lot of fun ! 'd
miss!
Jokes, facts, riddles, stories
handsome!
The most adorable mag,
is our Gokulam!*

**- N.Sarasija, Std.VII,
PSBBSSS, Chennai**

I have been writing regularly to Gokulam and receiving your remuneration. But I have not received some of the participation certificates!

YOU ARE MY

Hi Gokulam! You're my best friend! Both my vocabulary and imagination have improved because of you.

**- S.Suwetha, Std.IX,
K.V., Mandapam,
Tamilnadu**

Congrats, Gokulam!

What shall I do?

**- J.Vishnu, Std.IX,
Siksha Kendra, Vellore**
*(Dear Vishnu, your query has
been answered in page 69. - Editor)*

I am proud of being a Gokulam reader. It has improved my English. Cottage No.13, picture stories, jokes



and colour burst are very enjoyable.

- R.Harithra, Std.VIII, Srirangam

I am a regular reader of your magazine. Please release it early every month.

- A.V. Sri Vaishnavi, Std.IV,
The Hyderabad Public School

I started reading Gokulam in 2007. It is the best magazine. I like the jokes and Grandma Worm helps to solve our problems. Please publish more jokes and picture stories.

- Kailash,
Std.V,
Mrs. Y.G.P. School,
Chennai - 4



BEST FRIEND!

Every bit of this magazine is valuable. Especially cottage No.13 and Grandmaworm. As soon as I read it, I give it to friends who enjoy it.

- P.Pradeepa, Std.VIII, R.M.
Jain, Vidyashram, Tiruvellore

I have been a regular reader since 2007. My favourites are Pottering

Around, Hello Doctor. I love Gokulam because it improves my knowledge and my English too. Please publish more info on Harry Potter.

- G.Ghamini, Std.VII,
Smt. Ramkumar Devi
Fomra Vivekananda
Vidyalaya; Chennai



THE GRATEFUL NEEM

Story :
S. JULIET MARIALILLY

Pictures : PILLAI

Poppy was a bright, intelligent girl.

Come Poppy,
eat your meal
and then go out
to play.

No, Ma!
My friends
are waiting.
Let me play
first.

Poppy, Bina and Shiny went to the
back yard.

Bina, Poppy,
let's play a
new game.

And
what game
would that
be?

Shiny broke a branch off
the neem tree.

Hey!
Why are you
breaking the
branch?

Let's see
who can
break up the
most twigs...

No, The
poor tree!
Let's play so-
mething else.

That night...

The architect
has designed our
garage.

Good! Let's
build it in the
back yard.

When will our
new car arrive?

Very soon.
We can't park it in
the open air, can we?

When Poppy got back from school the following day...



Poppy was soon back, washed and changed.

Do you know Ma, our Earth faces global warming - a serious situation.

Smoke and emissions from factories and vehicles have polluted the atmosphere.

Yes, I too have read so.



When Poppy went to the backyard.



As Poppy watched the workmen, she called out in alarm.

Pa! Hurry! Come here at once!

What's up Poppy? Why are you so alarmed?

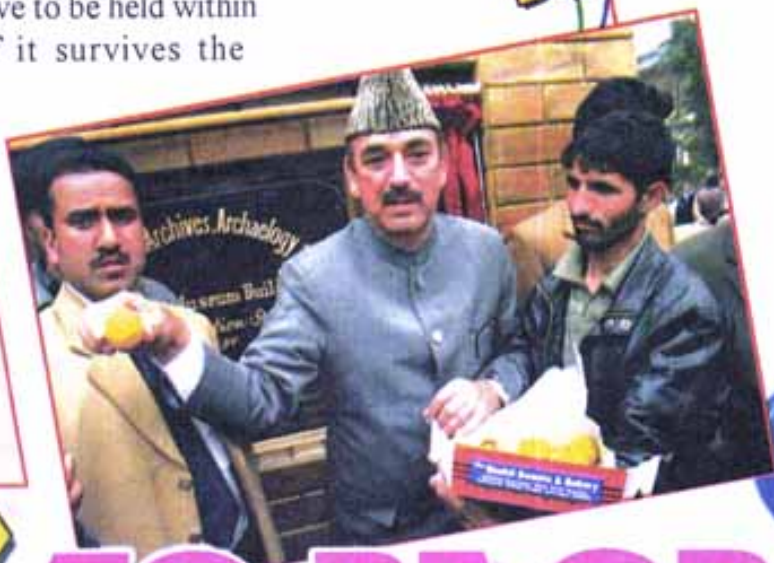






The U.P.A. government at the centre decided to go ahead with the India - U.S. Nuclear agreement and the communists decided to withdraw support. The U.P.A. government has thus been forced to seek a vote of confidence in the Lok Sabha. A special session has been called on July 21 and 22. If the government falls, elections will have to be held within six months. If it survives the

• Downfall!



Q: TO BE OR NOT TO BE?

Manmohan government is expected to last for its full term.

The Communists have opposed the Indo-U.S. Nuclear deal right from the start, accusing the U.P.A. Govt. of hiding facts regarding the agreement. The B.J.P. too felt that the agreement will endanger India's de-

fence capabilities by placing restrictions on our developing and testing nuclear weapons. The opposition is now accusing the Congress party of horse trading. It is true that several small and medium size parties are being wooed to support the





* Win or lose?

U.P.A. government when it seeks the vote of confidence. It is rumoured that crores of rupees are being paid besides promises of ministerial positions.

The rate of inflation has touched an all time high of 11.89%. The prices of almost all essential articles have risen to alarming levels. The entire blame cannot be placed on the increase in international crude oil prices. Inflation is another stick available to the opposition to beat the U.P.A. government, during election propaganda.

Forty people, several of them Indians, died in a suicidal car bomb attack on the Indian Embassy in Kabul. India is directly engaged in development activities in Afghanistan, spending millions of dollars. It is a humanitarian gesture to a newly founded democracy. But the Taliban militants view it as helping a puppet regime set up by the U.S.A. in Afghanistan.

In Kashmir, the coalition government led by the Congress Chief Minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad, had to resign since the People's Democratic Party withdrew from the coalition. The raging controversy is about allotment of forest land to put up temporary shelters to pilgrims visiting Amarnath temple. The government could have avoided allotting the land to the Amarnathji shrine authorities, though only on a temporary basis. It could have extended facilities to pilgrims through its several departments and no one would have complained. The wrong move, created fierce agitations and the government was forced to withdraw its order. This angered Hindutva forces and they too launched agitations to protest over government's "weak - kneed policy"! However with the fall of the coalition government agitations over this issue have subsided.

A. Manasa

Std. V, P.S. Senior Sec. School,
Mylapore,
Chennai - 600 004.



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